

Royal Scots celebrate 350th anniversary

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent
Britain's oldest regular infantry regiment, The Royal Scots, today celebrates the 350th anniversary of its formation. Its evolution is illustrated in the above strip, with drawings by Douglas N. Anderson.
In common with many other infantry regiments it has fallen on relatively hard times. In terms of size it reached a peak of 35 battalions, or probably more than 20,000 men, during the First World War, but now is reduced to one regular battalion and couple of companies in the Territorial Army.
However, unlike several proud regiments, it has been able to maintain its individual identity. In a special order of the day, the regiment's Colonel, Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, says: "Today we stand at the head of the infantry of the line as one of the very few regiments that has never been amalgamated. We have suffered many blows but the regimental spirit is as high as it has ever been."
The regiment, which is officially known as The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), is just completing a two-year tour of duty in Northern Ireland, and throughout 1983 will be based at Kirknewton, near Edinburgh.
The regiment started life in the service of the King Louis XIII of France, but that position had changed long before it became the first unit to cross from Spain into France in pursuit of Napoleon's armies after the Peninsular Wars.
Members of the regiment have won seven Victoria Crosses (six in the First World War and one in the Crimea), and there is also a George Cross, won during the Second World War.
The anniversary is being celebrated with an extended programme of events including a reception in London today and a commemorative postal cover.

Make strikers' dismissal illegal, unions say

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor
Trade union leaders are seeking a change in labour law that would make it illegal for employers to dismiss workers for going on strike.
The proposal is one of a number under consideration by the TUC for sweeping changes in the individual rights of unionists to be introduced by the next Labour government.
The TUC General Council has sent to more than a hundred affiliated organizations a confidential policy paper outlining options for change, including a provision that dismissal for industrial action would be automatically unfair.
Alarmed at the growing practice of employers dismissing or threatening to dismiss their employees during an industrial dispute, the TUC wants repeal not only of section 9 of Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Act, 1982, which permits employers to dismiss workers selectively, thereby getting rid of "troublemakers".
At the instigation of the traditionally moderate Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the TUC also proposes repeal of section 62 of the last Labour government's Employment Protection (Consolidated) Act of 1978 which retains the employer's right to dismiss his striking workforce.
Leaders of AUEW argue: "The right to strike does not exist where striking remains a sacking offence."
It has been counter-argued that removing the employer's power to dismiss all workers in a dispute would unduly upset the then prevailing balance of power between employers and unions.
"However," the TUC paper insists, "it may be considered that the balance (of power) which existed during the relatively full employment in 1973 and 1974 is considerable different from that which exists at present."
In addition, the present power of employers to dismiss all employees on strike, which was rarely if ever used before 1973, has been more frequently used in recent years.
The TUC concedes that taking away this power "could swing the balance too far the other way" and place employers in an intolerable position during an industrial dispute, for example over a pay claim which they cannot afford to pay.
The document adds: "However, unions rarely, if ever, pursue matters which result in severe financial danger for the employer, and reasonable employers would not wish to sack workers in a dispute anyway."
Union leaders being asked for their views on this issue are reminded: "It has become an increasing practice of management (partly shaped by legislation) to dismiss all strikers, or more usually to warn employees that those who undertake industrial action will be considered to have dismissed themselves."
"Also, in the present climate of high unemployment, it is an easy option for managers to get rid of shop stewards and other union representatives by means of dismissing all those on strike without incurring unfair dismissal claims."
To combat the trend, the TUC proposes that engaging in industrial action ought to be made an "inadmissible reason" for dismissal. Anyone removed for that reason would be able automatically to claim unfair dismissal and win substantial compensation from an industrial tribunal.
The document proposes a variety of other improvements in individual rights at work. Methods of "preserving the employment relationship", such as a right to remain at work on full pay until a claim for unfair dismissal has been heard by an industrial tribunal, are canvassed.
Other changes proposed are: reduction of the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims from one year's service with an employer to only three months; reintroduction of minimum compensation awards; and increasing them to the £20,000 level applied by the Government to victims of the "closed shop"; and reintroduction of the burden on employers to show they had acted reasonably and with "just cause" for dismissing an employee.

Arms call for Irish warders

The government of the Irish Republic may be urged to arm off duty prison officers after the shooting on Friday night of senior prison officer in Dublin, a spokesman for jail staff said last night.
The shooting was the first armed attack on a prison officer on the Republic.
As prison officers' leaders prepared yesterday for a meeting on security with Mr Michael Noonan, the Minister for Justice, Mr Tom Hoare, deputy general secretary of the Irish Prison Officers Association, said: "If the attack is the beginning of a concentrated campaign we would want prison officers armed when off duty."
Security was increased at Portlaoise prison where the injured prison officer, Mr Brian Stack, aged 50, a father of three, was a chief officer.
Sources at the prison, where some of the republic's leading terrorists are serving long sentences, said the atmosphere was "under a cloud".
Mr Stack was last night in a critical condition on a life support machine in Meath hospital, Dublin.
An explosion of between 400 and 500 lbs of gelignite in a field at Crossmaglen in South Armagh yesterday has mystified security forces.
Police believe either that the blast was set off prematurely or that the IRA was testing some new device. No damage was caused to property and no one was injured.

Thatcher condemns election bribery

By Our Political Editor
The nation will have to make a clear and irrevocable choice between the Conservative and Labour parties "within a year or so", the Prime Minister told the Conservative Central Council meeting in Kensington, London, on Saturday.
Mrs Thatcher directed her followers' attention mainly to the party which had won the Darlington by-election two days earlier. With a Labour Government, she said, Britain would return to the old fudging and fudging from crisis to crisis, but the pace downhill would be faster, and the outlook for freedom darker.
"The Labour Party promises to give away £11,000m. The SDF virtually matches the bid. The figures are unbelievable, and so are the claims to offer a credible alternative government. Election bribery was cynical and corrosive, and the Conservatives would have nothing to do with it, she said.
Mrs Thatcher said the achievement of steady prices, lower interest rates, the opportunity for real growth and genuine jobs, was too hard won and precious to be put at risk. Yet that was what Labour's economics would do.
"They would destroy the foundation we have worked so hard to build. We have been through it all before - indeed, it looks as if some others in Europe are going through it all again."
At the same meeting Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, was cautious in discussing the effect of further changes planned by the Conservatives in trade union law, saying there was "no magic water-tight solution" to the problems of reforming the unions.
Mr Tebbit said that ballots would not always ensure that strike calls were ignored, or that so-called moderates would always win. But representative and fair elections were more likely to elect representative and fair men, and he was confident that they could find a way to enhance the likelihood of ballots being taken before strikes were called.
He promised again that proposals to change the law on the political levy would not be implemented before the next general election. The Government did not wish to upset the balance of our parliamentary democracy or to bankrupt the Labour Party, but to return to truly voluntary contributions of union members to political funds, Mr Tebbit said.
Yesterday Mr Eric Varley, Labour shadow employment secretary, said that Mr Tebbit's proposals to change the basis of the levy were a threat to democracy and a crude and blatant attempt to injure Labour.
Crash kills four
A woman and three children were killed yesterday in a seven-car crash on the A1 at Datchet, near Belford, south of Berwick.

Science report

Volunteers test new leprosy vaccine

By Pearce Wright Science Editor
Trials have begun of a new vaccine to be tested on volunteers in Britain, Norway and the United States. However, it is intended for eventual use in the Third World.
The preparation is the result of a remarkable research project to find ways of immunizing people in developing countries against leprosy. The disease afflicts 12 million people, and it is spreading alarmingly, according to World Health Organization specialists, in the poor areas of Africa, Asia and Latin America.
Matters are aggravated by the increase of resistance of the infective organisms to the drugs which have contained the disease for a number of years. Furthermore, about four fifths of the world population live in areas and conditions at risk.
But it may take six to seven years to prove the effectiveness of the vaccine and then mount the type of campaign of vaccination that was mounted to conquer smallpox.
However, it has been used with dramatic effect on groups of patients with the most serious form of leprosy at an advanced stage in Venezuela.
The illness has been particularly difficult for medical research workers to study because the organisms causing the trouble cannot be grown in the laboratory. An unlikely breakthrough came in the 1970s with the discovery that one of the antibodies of the animal world, the nine-banded armadillo, was susceptible to the disease.
From then on this armoured terrestrial crustacean has provided a regular supply of the bacillus from which scientists at the National Institute for Medical Research, in London, have produced vaccine. The armadillos have been kept at the Microbiological Research Establishment at Porton Down, Wiltshire.
The trials with human volunteers on a preparation made by the Wellcome drug company have begun in Norway. The commercial preparation is made to standards that satisfy the government organizations which regulate the use of drugs.
Volunteers in Britain, Norway and the United States have been chosen because those countries have variations in their immunization programmes on public health. Hence the trial will yield a unique set of data of wider interest than that simply covering the response of individuals to this particular vaccine.

Acas seeking negotiated settlement at Halewood

By Our Labour Editor
Officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) will today resume their efforts to avert a Ford and damaging strike at Ford's Halewood manufacturing plant at Halewood, Merseyside.
Acas conciliators are in contact with Ronald Todd, chief car industry negotiator for the Transport and General Workers' Union, for further exploratory discussions, as the strike by 4,500 assembly workers nears the end of its third week.
If that opens up a prospect of wider talks, Ford management will be asked to give its assessment of a negotiated settlement to the dispute, which has cost 12,000 cars, with a showroom value of about £60m.
Union officials have shown some interest in conciliation, perhaps leading to third-party arbitration over the dismissal of Mr Paul Kelly, aged 25, who was dismissed for allegedly damaging a bracket worth 86p on an Escort car that was being assembled at the plant.
The company has so far refused to put the case to arbitration, pointing out that Mr Kelly can plead unfair dismissal before an industrial tribunal.



Foot pledge takes hunting into party politics

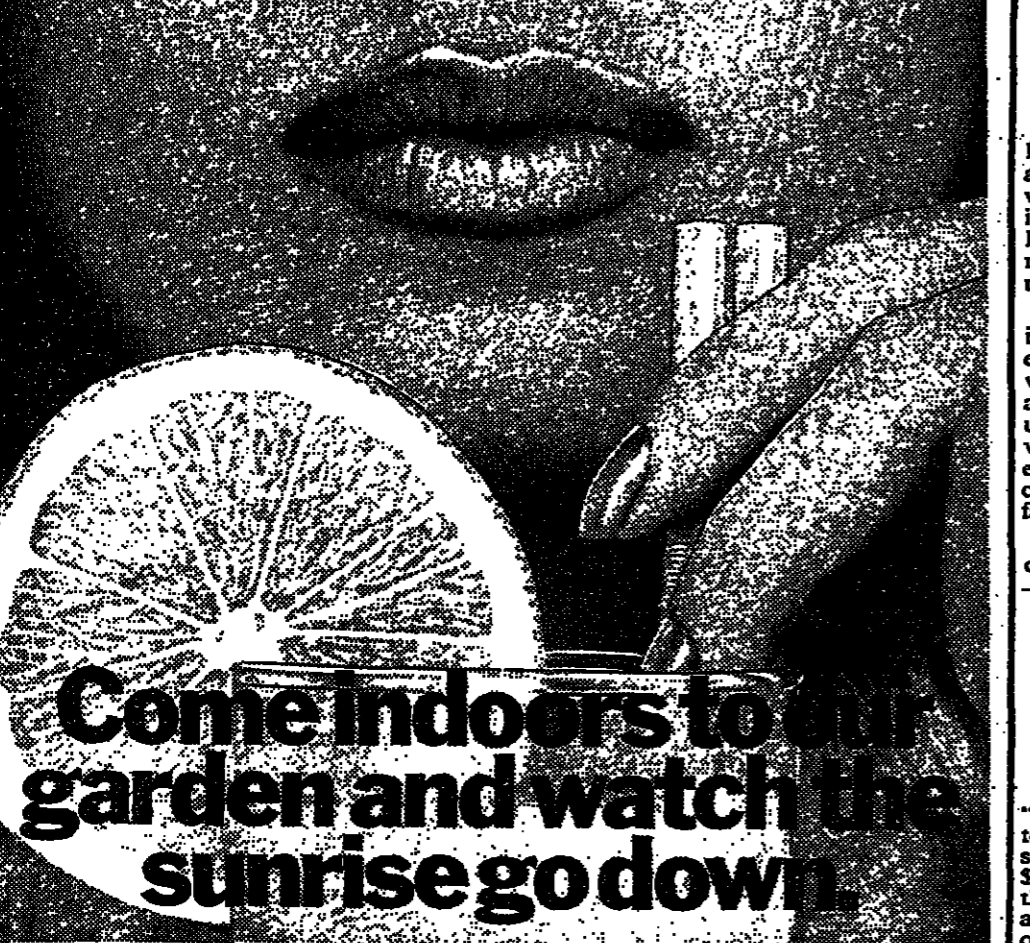
By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent
By committing the Labour Party at the weekend to abolishing foxhunting and to a wide range of measures affecting the countryside, Mr Michael Foot had brought the environmental debate firmly into the realm of party politics.
The success of the "Greens" in the recent West German elections has apparently convinced Labour, which traditionally draws its strength from the urban areas, that there are many votes to be gained, from exploiting issues such as rural conservation and animal welfare.
But the issues are not as clear cut as they might at first appear.
After Mr Foot's speech, at the inaugural meeting in London of the Socialist Countryside Group on Saturday, Mr Ken Storer, the spokesman for a group of Leicester miners, said he would invite his workmates to stop paying their political levy with their union subscriptions. He said he was a lifelong Labour supporter and a keen hunt follower.
The Master of Foxhounds Association said Mr Foot's pledge, which he said was a vote-catching exercise, was a mistake because hunting had never had wider support rights across the community.
Country sports, Page 4

Education cash curbs condemned

From Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent Loughborough
Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, was accused yesterday of breaking the spirit of the law by not giving enough money to schools so that all children could be educated according to their age and ability.
That accusation from Dr Peter Andrews, president of the Secondary Heads Association, which represents more than 3,000 head teachers in maintained and independent schools, was part of a detailed attack on Sir Keith's policies at the opening of the association's annual conference today.
Dr Andrews, who is headmaster of Henry Fanshawe School in Dronfield, Derbyshire, also accused Sir Keith of shifting power in the education service to central government.
Dr Andrews said it was clear that education was under-sourced when one compared maintained schools with independent schools. It was there that the Government was breaking the spirit of the Education Act, 1944. Facilities, playing fields and buildings were far better in the independent sector.
St Paul's School for Girls was raising £1.3m for a computer and engineering centre with the help of influential patronage. "It cannot be right that there is no hope of a parallel provision for girls in the maintained sector."

Education cash curbs condemned

Overseas selling prices
Austria 80p, Belgium 80p, Denmark 80p, France 80p, Germany 80p, Greece 80p, Ireland 80p, Italy 80p, Japan 80p, Korea 80p, Luxembourg 80p, Netherlands 80p, Norway 80p, Portugal 80p, Spain 80p, Sweden 80p, Switzerland 80p, Taiwan 80p, Thailand 80p, United Kingdom 80p, USA 80p, West Germany 80p, Yugoslavia 80p.



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Former "Rembrandt" fetches £8,979

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent
A little painting on panel of "Diana at the Bath" attributed to the "School of Rembrandt" sold for £13,200 (estimate \$3,000 to \$5,000) or £8,979, to the Babbington Gallery of Toronto at Christie's East in New York on Friday. It was a comedown for a painting that was once a "Rembrandt".
Art historians at the turn of the century attributed the 7in by 7in painting to Rembrandt himself. Its finest hour was its inclusion in a Rembrandt exhibition at the Jeu de Paume in Paris in 1911. It changed hands four times between 1892 and 1936.
However, the painting is closely related to a Rembrandt etching of the same subject. Christie's catalogue quotes Arthur M. Hind's comment in a publication of 1924: "One inclines to regard it as a school picture based on the etching" and the agreement of Giovanni Arpino, whose Rembrandt was published in 1969. Other recent authors have ignored the painting completely.
While it missed securing the £1m or so that it might have been worth as a Rembrandt, the price the panel fetched was very healthy for a small copy after a Rembrandt etching. By using the terminology "School of", Christie's have indicated their belief that the copy was painted around Rembrandt's own time, by a pupil or follower.
The minor old master sale at Christie's secondary New York saleroom secured a total of £145,506, with 26 per cent unsold. It had attracted several London dealers, looking for bargains in a country where old masters are less appreciated.
Pawsey & Payne paid \$11,000 (estimate \$5,000 to \$7,000) or £7,482, for "The

Sale room

Former "Rembrandt" fetches £8,979

Geography Lesson" attributed to Zoffany, Van Haeften spent \$13,200 (estimate \$4,000 to \$6,000) or £8,979, on a 7ft seventeenth century "Portrait of a Gentleman", and Lane Fine Art spent \$6,600 (estimate \$4,000 to \$6,000) or £4,489 on "Diana and Actaeon" painted on copper by Giovanni Battista Naldini, which was sent for sale by the Fort Worth Art Museum.
Christie's held a sale of Art Nouveau and Art Deco in their main Park Avenue auction on Saturday, which fetched a total of £463,683, with 23 per cent unsold.
Tiffany lamps and Chippendale figures supplied most of the high prices but a portrait of "Kizette", a little girl in a long-waisted pink dress painted in 1928 by Tamara de Lempicka, secured the top price at \$60,500 (estimate \$50,000 to \$60,000) or £41,156.

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Information on these sales on (01) 839 9960/930 8870
Christie's St. James's will be closed from Friday, 1 April to Monday, 4 April and will re-open on Tuesday, 5 April with a sale of English and Continental Glass, English Potcelain and 19th Century European Ceramics.
For details of sales at Christie's South Kensington, please contact (01) 581 2231/3679



Scarcity of key labour feared after recession

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The survey, carried out by the University of Sussex Institute of Manpower Studies, reports that despite widespread redundancies, paradoxically there is no pool of labour stocked with a surfeit of the right craftsmen.

"An unknown proportion have undoubtedly found work elsewhere, perhaps by displacing less-skilled people. An equally unknown proportion will prefer not to return to the industry which shed them, the rest the usual mismatches will proliferate, the report suggests.

"The investigators have discovered a 'pronounced shift' in the manpower policies of firms. Companies are assuming that such a pool of skilled men with preferred experience and personal experience exists when research suggests that it does not.

Firms have moved from a long-term strategic policy to a short-term tactical policy. "Changed economic circumstances now mean that more current employment levels are being set much closer to actual, immediate production needs.

"They have, so to speak, 'exported' their precautionary stocks to the local labour market. The firms themselves will therefore need to resort to external recruitment more quickly in any upturn. But the skills which were formerly on tap are no longer under control there, and will in any case have atrophied. Some will be deemed unemployable, simply because they are unemployed.

The net effect of those policies will be to produce a shortage of key skills, such as electronic maintenance craftsmen, multi-skilled craftsmen and technician-engineers in particular.

Firms will be unable to recruit such people, and ought to think more carefully about their long-term policies, the study argues. The commission suggests a number of "best practice" for adoption by managers and unions alike, such as the introduction of better scales for craftsmen based on service and linked to further training.

"Craftsmen and Draughtsmen, the end of Shortages" (Manpower Services Commission, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ, £1.50.

Tax critics answered by Aitken

By David Hewson

Mr Jonathan Aitken, the new chief executive of TV-am, replied yesterday to complaints that most of the shareholdings in the company holding his family stake in the station are based in the tax haven of the Netherlands Antilles.

In a statement issued by Aitken (English), the family's private company, Mr Aitken said that the shareholding was the result of legitimate international tax planning on the behalf of the late Lord Beaverbrook's Canadian estates and the overseas interests of the Aitken family.

The Netherlands Antilles company holds 98 non-voting shares in Aitken Telecommunications which, in turn, has 16.7 per cent, the largest stake of any investor, in TV-am.

Mr Aitken said that Aitken Telecommunications was a British company which would pay full British tax on any profits it made.

Dispute means free Land's End access

From Craig Seton, Lands End

Pedestrians are to have free access to Land's End, in spite of a £1.50 admission charge to be introduced today, until a dispute over an alleged right of way is resolved between Mr David Goldstone, its new owner, and the district council.

Mr Goldstone, a London millionaire, paid £2.25m for Britain's most famous headland more than a year ago and has since invested another £1m in improvements, including two new exhibition centres. He announced his concession yesterday.

The new Land's End was officially opened last week, and visitors were to have been charged £1.50 each from today. But last Wednesday Penwith District Council surprised Mr Goldstone by announcing that its officer had been authorized to take whatever legal action was necessary to protect an alleged right of way across Mr Goldstone's property, from the end of the A30 to the coastal path at Land's End.

Mr Goldstone told The Times yesterday that title deeds and inquiries raised with both the council and Cornwall County Council "did not disclose the existence of any right of way. But his solicitor would meet the district council's solicitor to assess the evidence it purported to have."

"Pending such a meeting, we have been requested by our solicitors to permit pedestrian access, and we have agreed to do so, as it remains our intention to respect all proven existing rights of way, and we have no wish to exacerbate the matter", Mr Goldstone said.

That means pedestrians walking through the property to the Land's End coastal path will not have to pay for the time being.

Mr John Moore, the council's chief executive, said yesterday that the council welcomed Mr Goldstone's decision.

The council had always wished every success to the new owner it was pleased that he had considerably tidied up Land's End.

Spending and saving gains for exiles

By Nicholas Cole

British expatriates enjoy considerably higher spending and saving power abroad than they would if employed at home, according to a survey of Britons working overseas.

Forty-three per cent of those questioned are regularly saving or investing more than £500 a month, and just under a quarter of them have assets worth more than £30,000. They spend generously on duty-free goods, including watches, cameras, high fidelity and video equipment.

The survey of incomes and buying habits was conducted among 550 members of Expats International, an independent London-based service organization with about 4,000 English-speaking subscribers worldwide. More than half the respondents work in Saudi Arabia and other parts of the Middle East, while the remainder are mainly in Africa.

A picture emerges of the average expatriate as a married man in a permanent position, and planning to stay overseas for no more than three years.

Thirty-six per cent earn £10,000 to £15,000 a year, 35 per cent £15,000 to £20,000 a year, and 20 per cent £20,000 to £30,000. Only three per cent earn over £30,000 a year.

Their disposable incomes, or the amount they have available for spending after meeting commitments, is generally higher than it would be in Britain because of lower taxation and benefits including free accommodation, food and travel.

Competition for positions offering such advantages is intensifying. Jobs overseas are becoming scarcer because of falling oil revenues and the consequent squeeze on national economies.

Expats International reports a steady return flow of British staff who have fallen victim to cost-cutting by their employers overseas.

The survey reveals a 17 per cent unemployment rate among expatriate Britons.

Job therapy defended

Probation at £87 a week

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Steve had the look of an old lag. He rolled his cigarettes, wore ear-rings and had tattooed L-O-V-E on the fingers of his left hand and H-A-T-E on his right as a tribal mark of recognition among those who have been inside. He had done his time for burglary and been mixed up in violence over drugs.

Mr James Todd, the south Yorkshire probation officer in charge of the scheme employing him, yesterday defended the payment of £87 a week wages by the Manpower Services Commission to offenders such as Steve, compared with the £36 to £40 Mr Todd says is available for unemployed single people on the dole.



Mr Harry Hanwell, an instructor, watching a former offender working on his matchstick models. (Photograph: Neville Pyne)

A new commission scheme to provide wages of up to £60 for 10,000 offenders nationally not been announced. After an outcry over alleged favouritism being shown to criminals compared with honest people who cannot get a job.

But Mr Todd told The Times: "We are showing that offenders are ready and willing to work within the law, given a chance."

Another offender employed by the probation service said that his £88.22 a week commission wage, he was able to get married, help to furnish a house, had a holiday in Great Yarmouth last year and was spending his £300 savings on a honeymoon in Majorca.

Probation officers argue that paying offenders wages taught them the work habits, sometimes for the first time, if they have been in institutions all their lives. South Yorkshire has 164 former offenders earning more than £80 a week.

Officers say it costs less than the £168-£369 a week needed to hold a man in a closed prison and, even though many have a string of convictions, teaches them to go straight.

Miss Audrey Hallam, deputy

chief probation officer, said: "In my experience employment is the best therapy we have ever had."

Steve no longer rolls his cigarettes, but he does have split matches in half to save money as people in prison do. But having come to the end of the year limit on commission wages, he is back on the dole. A tuckier half dozen have graduated to administrative or more senior supervisory jobs with salaries of up to £6,500 paid by the probation service.

While in Lancaster prison on a three-year sentence Steve did a course on applied social studies run by Lancaster University. In Sheffield, he taught social skills on a probation scheme. His pupils learnt how to shop around for bargains, read electricity meters and eked out money to pay bills.

Other offenders were paid wages by the commission to supervise gardening and decorating given free by probation-run teams at homes of delighted disabled people or pensioners. A third group under supervision repairs toys for children in play groups and hospitals.

Police raided home of blind woman in error

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Police officers left a Blind garden fences like a pack of pensioner trembling with fear. There were two officers and about six uniformed police. They were running wild.

Mr Eva Firmin, aged 66, a great-grandmother, of Westfield Crescent, Runcorn, Cheshire, said: "The sitting room door flew open and someone ran in and shouted: 'Have you had a break-in?'"

"Luckily my friend was with me. I am sure had I been alone I would have had a heart attack. When my friend said it was a policewoman I thought my husband Billy had been in an accident."

"It would not have been so bad had they come back and explained what happened."

Mrs Firmin's friend, Mrs Edith Abram, aged 66, of Cherry Tree Avenue, Runcorn, said: "Police were jumping over

Triffid-like hogweed on the increase

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Giant Hogweed, which bears an alarming resemblance to the fictional Triffid, is spreading faster than ever, according to the North of Scotland College of Agriculture.

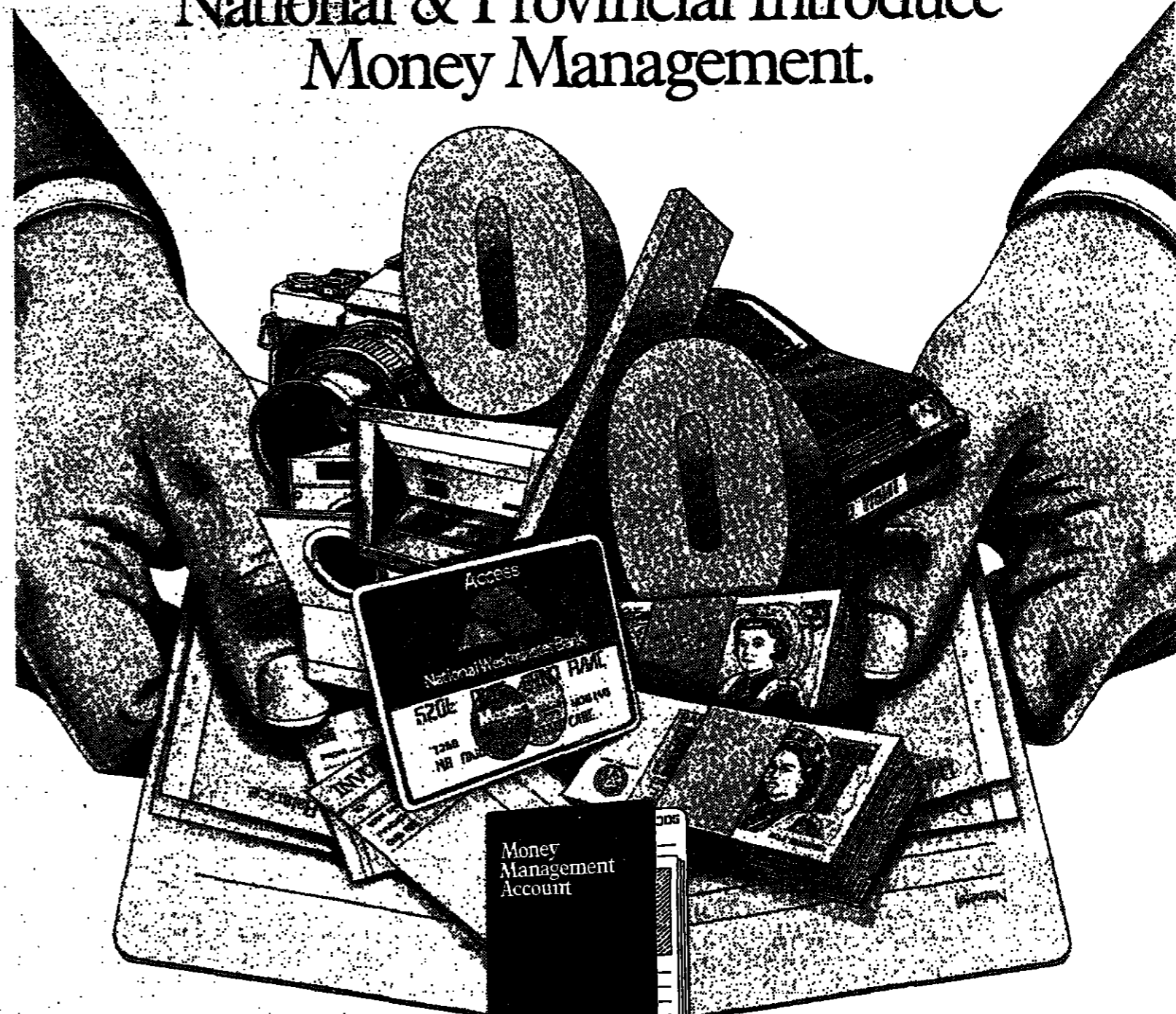
The plant, which grows up to four metres high, with leaves more than a metre wide, was brought from the Caucasus as a garden ornament at the end of the last century.

When handled, its bristles release large quantities of sap which make the skin highly sensitive to light and can cause anything from a mild rash to painful blisters.

Each plant produces about 5,000 seeds, which over the years have colonized riverbanks and road and railway embankments.

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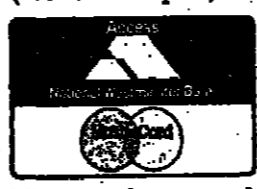


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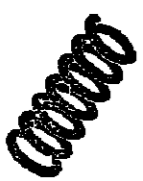
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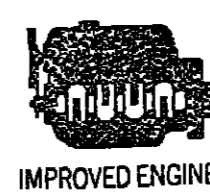
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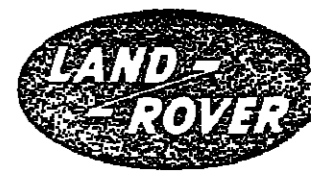
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Andropov determined to assert his authority but the intrigues persist

From Richard Owen, Moscow

An important meeting of the Central Committee is expected to take place in Moscow, shortly, amid growing signs that Mr Yuri Andropov is determined to show that his authority in the Kremlin is unimpaired. Informed sources said the meeting would decide policy and personnel changes. It will be the first party plenum since November, when Mr Andropov made his first policy statement as leader.

These attempts to show that Mr Andropov remains firmly in charge of the Kremlin's affairs are being accompanied by what appear to be the faint beginnings of an Andropov personality cult. Mr Andropov has so far largely kept out of the limelight, but his portrait has begun to appear in public, together with quotations from his speeches on giant red placards on some Moscow streets.



Mr Tikhonov: Unflustered

Rumours and intrigues persist, including one report (since discounted) that a woman tried to assassinate Mr Andropov in his private office. "What is significant is that someone somewhere is putting the rumours about," commented one senior Western diplomat. Some of those now manoeuvring for power in the post-Brezhnev era are wondering whether to link their political fortunes irrevocably to a man who walks with a stoop and sometimes appears gaunt.

Mr Andropov, however, has the loyalty of the KGB and the armed forces, and controls the Politburo through an inner circle of close supporters. These include Mr Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, who (for the time being at least) combines the post with that of First Deputy Prime Minister.

Twice last week political rumours flared up and were doused by the Kremlin, only to flare up again. Some were based on a hasty misreading of the signals. Others, including reports of Mr Andropov's poor health, have been confirmed. Senior Soviet officials told correspondents that the Soviet leader had had "influenza" earlier this month, but other sources report that he suffered from a kidney ailment.

Reagan 'treading dangerous path'

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Mr Yuri Andropov yesterday firmly dismissed President Reagan's proposal for a more defensive American nuclear strategy based on anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs) as unrealistic and extremely dangerous.

ABM defences will permit progress in limiting and reducing strategic systems. The Reagan administration was treading an extremely dangerous path, and was treating the issue of war and peace flippantly.

Mr Andropov warned Mr Reagan that there should be no mistake in Washington about Russia's determination to prevent any American attempt to "gain military superiority over the Soviet Union."

We will win one day, Walesa says

Gdansk (AP, Reuter) - Mr Lech Walesa yesterday told cheering Solidarity supporters that "the time will come when we will win."

German nuclear plea to American bishops

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

As West Germans examine with scarcely veiled scepticism and bewilderment President Reagan's latest proposals for a laser beam defence strategy, two leading Roman Catholic politicians have appealed to American Catholic bishops not to publish a pastoral letter whose conclusions they say would make nuclear war more likely.

The letter was published as other senior politicians have been expressing palpable unease over the new Reagan strategy, which has been compared here to a "Star Wars" philosophy.

Advertisement for Loft Conversions, featuring text like 'GIVE YOUR HOME WITHOUT THE COST OF MOVING' and 'Crestite UPVC REPLACEMENT WINDOWS'.

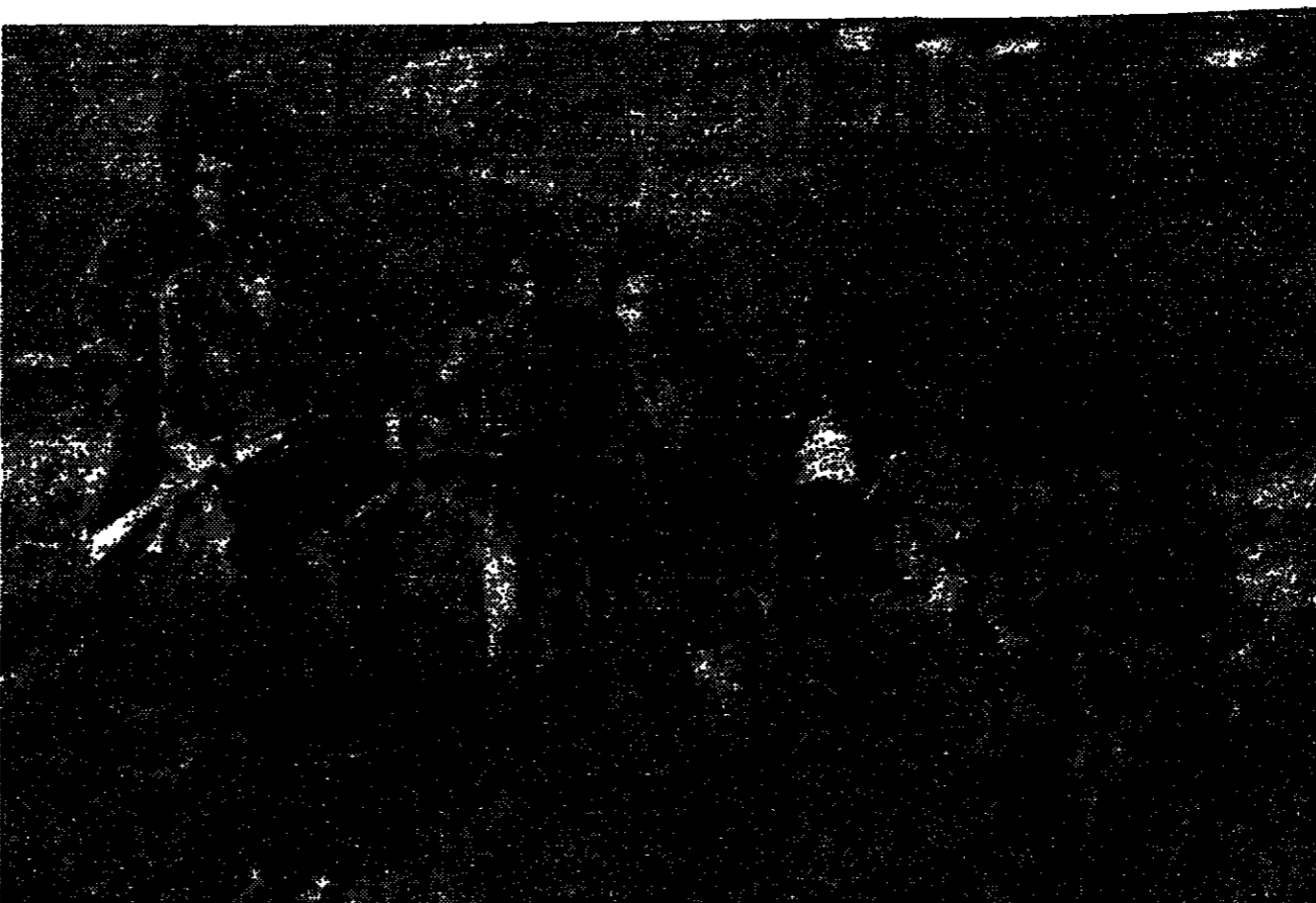
The two men, leading figures in the German Catholic Central Committee, said many people in Europe shared their great anxiety over the second draft of the pastoral letter, which they said fanned the flames of Soviet propaganda and endangered peace by encouraging the Russians to attempt nuclear blackmail of Western Europe.

Vanuatu editor deported and paper closed

Brisbane (Reuter) - Miss Christine Coombe, British journalist, arrived in Brisbane yesterday after being deported from the South Pacific Island of Vanuatu, where she ran the only independent newspaper.

Arafat makes surprise visit to Riyadh

Bahrain (Reuter) - Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, on his way to Jordan to meet King Hussein, called unexpectedly in Riyadh yesterday for talks with Saudi leaders.



Bahrain at risk from big oil slick

Bahrain (Reuter) - A huge oil slick drifting south from two damaged Iranian oil wells is now about 60 miles north of Bahrain and is likely to hit part of the island's north coast in two weeks, Gulf environment officials said.

French doctor killed in Nicaragua

Countering the "contras": Nicaraguan Army reservists on patrol duty against right-wing guerrillas (known as "contras"). As the rural sweeps continued a French doctor was killed in crossfire during a clash 180 miles north-east of Managua in the central mountainous region.

Señor Borge identified the Frenchman as Pierre Grosjean, and said he was in the area under a French Government aid programme to conduct research into mountain leprosy.

day police said their possible links with Salvadoran guerrilla groups were being investigated.

Basques kidnap King's friend

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A Spanish aristocrat and close friend of King Juan Carlos has been kidnapped. The ETA Basque terrorist organization claimed responsibility.

On their mother's side the Prado brothers are descended from Christopher Columbus.

Señor Manuel Prado said ETA involvement could not be ruled out - the kidnapers had intended to seize him and not his brother, who was, he added, "a man without means".

US delays Egypt butter sale

Cairo (Reuter) - The United States will delay subsidized farm export deals, such as the recent sale of wheat flour to Egypt, to avoid antagonizing the European Community.

Mr Block, who is in Cairo during a 10-day visit to north Africa and the Middle East, has been under pressure at home to fight the Europeans by dumping American dairy products on world markets.

Police said they were first informed of the kidnapping by a call from the Zarzuela Palace, the royal residence. King Juan Carlos arrived yesterday in Palma, Majorca, to begin the royal family's Easter holiday break.

Two of them, stayed behind after the kidnapping for about three-quarters of an hour, intimidating the porter. According to police, this gave the other two time to take their victim out of Madrid.

Four young men pretending to be policemen and showing fake passes, using a technique similar to that of an ETA gang which last year blew up a Madrid telephone exchange, seized Señor Prado in the garage of his Madrid flat.

Political and military tensions

Greece bedevilled by doubt and division

From Mario Modiano, Athens

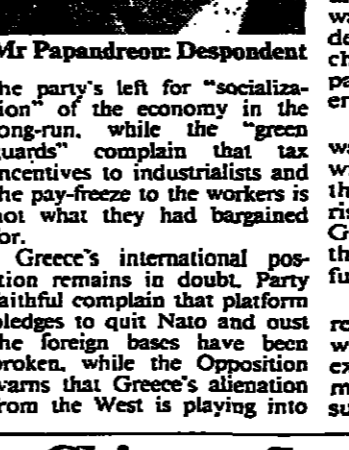
The cartoon in the pro-Athens government newspaper on Independence Day portrayed a Greek soldier in the turret of an army tank using a loud-speaker: "Now hear this," said the bubble. "We are not staging a readiness exercise, not a coup, nor a putsch. We are just on our way to the parade."

Called "green guards" try to cover them up. The persisting uncertainty over the Government's real intentions - economic, military, or political - is unerving for both its opponents and its disciples.

At this juncture, individual Greeks turn to President Karamanlis with an uncanny confidence that he will get them out of the mess as he did before.

When nearly 100,000 of them, men and women, suddenly turned up at a murdered journalist's funeral in Athens, calling the Government "murderer" for five hours, then something must have gone drastically wrong.

In a sense, less anxiety is probably caused by the Government's errors and omissions than by the shrill and unconvincing tone with which its lowering ranks and the party's so-



Mr Papandreu: Despondent

Love on wheels

Aarau, Switzerland (Reuter) - A trailer bearing drawings of a reclining pair of lovers has been banned here as a distraction to traffic.

On one side lay a woman with the inscription "Anita is thinking of Albert". On the other was a man with the words "Albert is thinking of Anita."

Peace gesture

Bogota (Reuter) - Colombia's largest left-wing guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, issued a list of 56 kidnapped people they are holding and said all would be freed soon. The move is seen as a step towards peace talks with the government of President Betancur.

Summit of left

Paris - The heads of Socialist governments in Europe are to meet in Paris on May 18 at the invitation of President Mitterrand to work out a common socialist response to world economic problems.

Goodwill visit

Peking (AFP) - Mr Thomas ("Tip") O'Neill, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, arrived here with a 45-member delegation for an eight-day friendship visit.

Pym for Gulf

Abu Dhabi (Reuter) - Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, will pay an official three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates starting on April 4.

Dancer defects

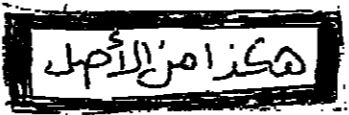
Malmö (AFP) - An unnamed Estonian ballet dancer on tour in Sweden left his troupe on Saturday and requested political asylum.

Snow in summer

Zurich (Reuter) - On the day that Europe changed to summer time, snowstorms caused chaos on the Gotthard motorway through the Swiss Alps as thousands headed south for an early Easter holiday.

Chinese flower power on view for TUC

Urging people to work harder and sponsoring such hobbies as painting flowers and collecting stamps, are among the activities of the Chinese trade unions which will this week receive a delegation of British unions headed by Mr Len Murray, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress.



Aid to Ethiopia still getting through, relief agencies say

By Richard Dowling

Aid is still getting through to drought victims in Ethiopia, relief agencies workers said yesterday. An Ethiopian spokesman also denied reports that food is being used to feed the Ethiopian Army or diverted to the Soviet Union to pay for arms.

"We have nothing to send to the Soviet Union," Mr Wuhib Muluneh, a spokesman from the Ethiopian Government said in London. "We are trying to distribute what we can to the three million drought victims. Whatever aid comes to us will not be diverted into any areas except those needing assistance."

An unnamed Ethiopian official who is seeking asylum in Britain claimed in a report in *The Sunday Times* that grain shipped by EEC countries to Assab, on the Red Sea, was being re-exported to the Soviet Union. The report also claimed that food aid from the EEC and the United Nations World Food Programme was recently found in Ethiopian Army Camps.

Mr Wilfred Agnes, the Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia, said that these reports had been bandied around for some time, and that his staff had kept a close eye on the ports and would know if it had happened.

Aid workers who have recently returned from Ethiopia agree that the Ethiopian Government is taking the drought seriously and that its Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, which distributes the food, is a credible organization.

However, Mr Paul Renshaw, of Christian Aid, who has recently returned from Ethiopia, said it would be naive to imagine that aid from political influence, though he had no evidence of aid going seriously astray.

A spokesman for the Overseas Development Administration in London, which recently gave £250,000 aid to Ethiopia, in addition to £100,000 already pledged, said that these new allegations would have to be followed up.

He said that the British Ambassador and staff from other EEC countries in Ethiopia had travelled extensively in the country and had found no evidence to support earlier allegations that food aid was being misused.

But the idea that food goes directly from the donors to the mouths of the drought victims is far from the truth. A spokesman for the EEC in Brussels yesterday said that the 80,000 tonnes of wheat sent by the EEC to Ethiopia as this year's contribution was sold on the open market in Addis Ababa with the consent of the EEC.

The money raised was used to buy locally grown maize to feed the hungry. In this way, the EEC spokesman said, Ethiopian agriculture is helped and people in rural areas receive the food they are used to rather than imported wheat. It also cuts the cost of transporting the food across Ethiopia's mountainous terrain.

Letters, page 11



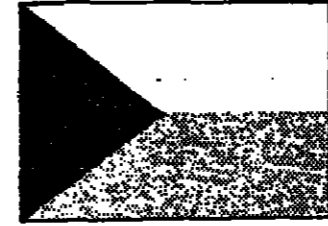
Earthquake survivor: An Iranian woman standing among the rubble after tremors devastated a string of villages 50 miles north of Tehran on Friday and Saturday. At least 30 people died and more than 100 were injured. Many of the dead were motorists caught in a landslide.

The communist dilemma

Prague haunted by the Dubcek era

Czechoslovakia, put "under arrest" after the heady days of Dubcek rule in 1968, is now on parole. ROGER BOYES writes from Prague. In this first article of a three-part series he describes the Communist authorities' dilemma in having to accept fundamental changes in society to pursue the economic reforms they desire.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Part 1: Economy

In the Prague tavern once frequented by the good soldier Schweik, Czechoslovakia's patron saint of passive resistance, there is a cartoon showing the trampled First World War private. "I've had five pints of beer, a couple of sausages and a roll," he is saying. "I'll just have left of their own accord, and there is as much controversy in the plenary sessions of the Central Committee as at a maiden aunts' tea party."

But normalization has also eroded the system's ability to respond effectively to change. As a result the Czechoslovak Government now faces three challenges, essentially in its political machinery.

First, by renouncing market levers after 1968 - as part of the general campaign to excise Mr Dubcek - the Government has encouraged a false sense of immunity from world developments. Secondly, the Prague planners over-extended themselves, investing too much in too many projects. The result has been some 30,000 unfinished projects and a neglect of new technology. Finally, the Government failed to respond

to the explosion in oil and raw material prices. All of this has sunk home now and the Czechoslovak Government is wondering how to change course without making it seem as if they are embracing Mr Dubcek's policies of liberalizing the economy. Nuclear policy is being emphasized in the almost certainly unrealistic hope of giving atomic power a 30 per cent share in the country's energy supply by 1990.

Investment policy is now being concentrated on a few rather than a broad range of industries. A slight liberalization, dubbed "the set of measures", has been introduced to give managers more power. But Czechoslovakia knows that it faces a stark choice if it is to secure the long-term prosperity of the economy. It can borrow money from the West to modernize its heavy industry - but it is reluctant to do so. The example of Poland is a warning beacon.

It can forget its growth targets, revise them downwards and tell the people to tighten their belts - but this offers little in the way of a solution. Or it can reform on a broader scale - giving factories the right to deal independently with the West and secure their own export markets, give farmers more a say in the running of agriculture and encourage private enterprise.

Timidity is the watchword - the hard currency debt is the official secret, corruption scandals rarely reach the newspapers and become part of the mouth-

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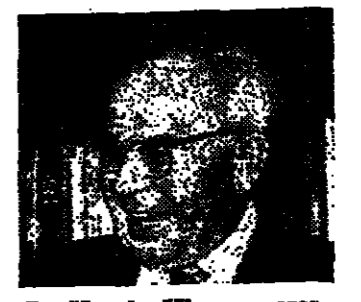
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Timidity is the watchword - the hard currency debt is the official secret, corruption scandals rarely reach the newspapers and become part of the mouth-

to-month news system. But reform means to admit error. And, as the party leadership has been in power for so long, there seems no way of avoiding the buck. In Poland, Mr Edward Gierk, the disgraced party leader, has been given the blame, but in Prague nobody has been disgraced for quite a while.

This naturally leads Western diplomats and informed Czechoslovak intellectuals to speculate about future changes in the leadership. The current scenario is that Mr Milos Jakes, a



Dr Husak: His successor is being groomed.

Præsidium member and an economic expert, is being groomed to succeed Dr Gustav Husak as party leader.

At least three men in the Præsidium are in shaky chairs - either because of ill health or because they have lost influence - and could be replaced by people more wedded to the idea of reform, thus breaking the current deadlock between the relatively dogmatic and the relatively pragmatic leaders.

Next: Dissidents

UK queries Harare ban on reporter

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Foreign Office officials are investigating the action taken by Zimbabwe police against Mr David Blundy, a special correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, who arrived in the country a week ago.

Mr Blundy, whose report "Zimbabwe Bleeds Again" was published in yesterday's paper, had his passport, notebooks, camera and personal papers seized during a raid on his hotel room.

Police told him they were operating under the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, which apparently does not require them to produce a search warrant.

Mr Blundy is unable to leave the country but is free to move around Harare. The Foreign Office said in London that he had been visited by Mr R. F. Ralph, the head of Chancery in the British High Commission. Mr Blundy was suffering from chickenpox and was comfortable.

The Foreign Office said the High Commission had been told to make inquiries, "as a matter of urgency", with the Zimbabwe authorities.

HARARE: Zimbabwe's Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace stated its "grave concern" about human rights in south-western Metabeland, AFP reports.

"It is clear from evidence that human rights in the affected areas are being severely violated and that men, women and children are being killed and injured without just cause", the commission said after its annual meeting on Saturday.

Frontline states seek support

From Susan MacDonald
Lisbon

Ministers from the six African frontline states, meeting in Lisbon over the weekend, accused South Africa of deliberate attempts to destabilize its black-ruled neighbours and the West of giving support to the apartheid regime which further endangered a worsening situation.

Mr Frederick Shava, the Zimbabwe Minister for Planning and Development, said that South Africa continued to support groups sowing the seeds of dissent in the frontline countries, attacking and kidnapping civilians and blowing up installations.

He also accused Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwe opposition leader now in London, of thinking first of fleeing to South Africa at the first suspicion that his life was in danger, a charge which Mr Nkomo has previously ridiculed.

The meeting decided to build up the Southern African Developments Co-ordination Conference, whose members recently met in Botswana, as an alternative to trading with South Africa.

The meeting, which was attended by ministers from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, was designed to focus the attention of the West on the southern African situation. It was also attended by Mr Sam Nujoma, leader of Swapo, the Namibian resistance movement, and Mr Oliver Tambo, leader of the banned African National Congress.

Deposed Swazi leader flees to South Africa

From Michael Horanby, Johannesburg

Prince Mabandla Dlamini, the deposed Prime Minister of Swaziland, arrived in South Africa with his family. Their whereabouts has not been revealed. Nor is it clear whether Prince Mabandla intends to ask for asylum in South Africa or to move on elsewhere.

It is the second time this month that a southern African politician has left his country in the midst of political turmoil. On March 8 Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwean opposition leader, fled secretly to Botswana, claiming that his life was in danger. He is now in Britain.

In Prince Mabandla's case, his departure seems to have been known in advance to both the South African and Swaziland Governments. Confirming the flight of the Prince and his family on Saturday, Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said that they had crossed the border "in the customary way with valid travel documents."

According to Mr Botha, the Prince is "tired and wants to be kept out of the way so he can think about his future," and has promised not to create problems for the Swaziland Government while he is in South Africa. For its part, South Africa would do nothing "to harm or damage our relations with Swaziland."

Prince Mabandla was replaced as Prime Minister last week by Prince Bhekimpi Dlamini, another relative of the late King Sobhuza II. Not much

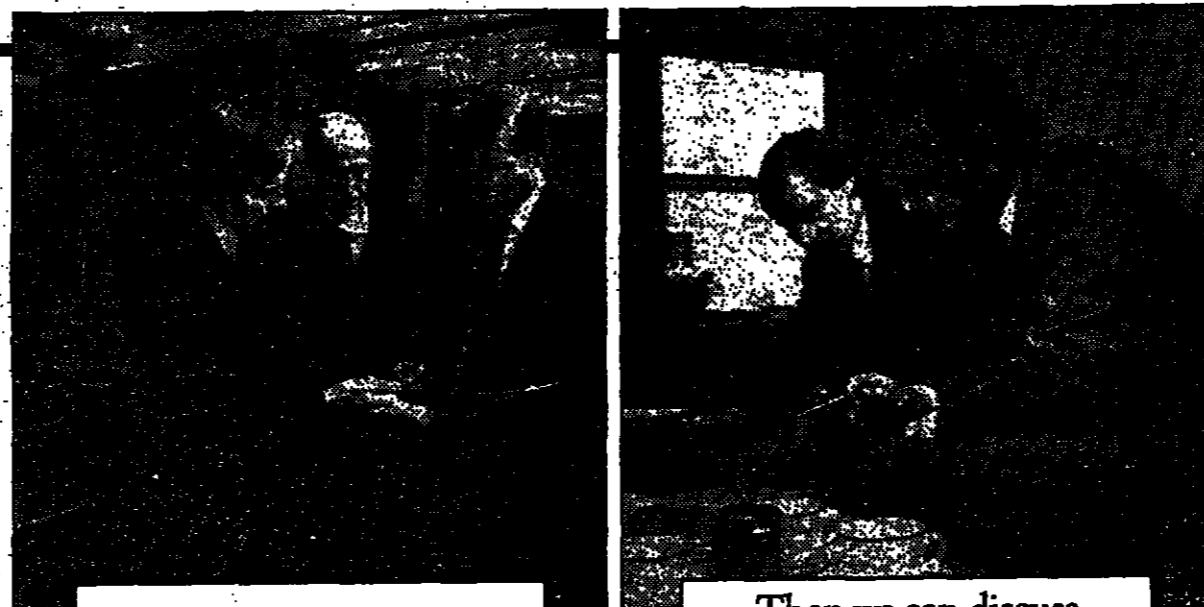
else is known about him, except that he is said to have studied politics at Sussex University.

The new Prime Minister's main distinction is that he is a staunch supporter of the deal with South Africa on which King Sobhuza was working when he died at the age of 83 last August without a designated heir. This would involve the cession of South African tribal land and people to Swaziland in return for the latter's closing its borders to guerrillas of the underground African National Congress.

There was strong speculation in Swaziland last week, encouraged by some officials in the royal household, that Prince Mabandla might be put on trial for high treason in connection with the arrest of two members of the Liqoqo, the supreme council of state, on charges of sedition. The charges against the two men were dropped soon after Prince Mabandla's dismissal.

Suspicion of a strong South African connexion in the strife between the Liqoqo and the former Prime Minister was fanned when the news of his dismissal was broadcast on South African radio a week ago almost before anyone in Swaziland, including Prince Mabandla, was aware of it.

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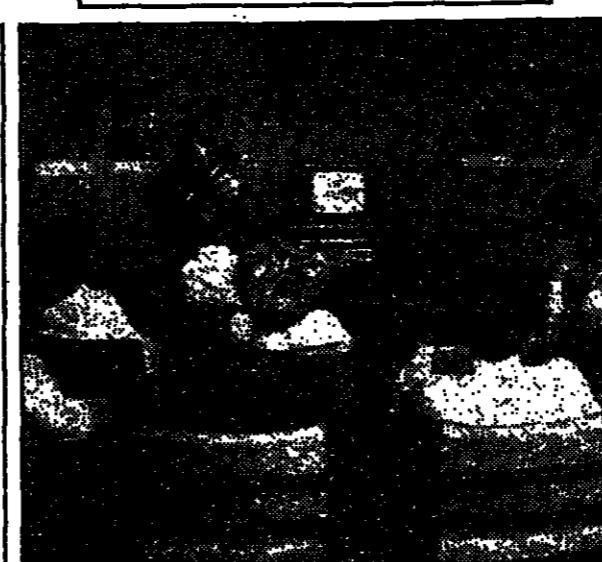


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SPECTRUM

Tower-block slums are not the only victims of low capital investment and inadequate architectural research. In the first of three articles, Charles McKean examines the disastrous consequences of Britain's building philosophy



LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL. Built 1967. Scaffolding on the roof last year indicated problems, possibly to do with mosaic, glass and concrete parging company



NEW SCOTLAND YARD. Opened 1967. Loose masonry panels may be replaced by metal facings



HILLINGDON. Condensation, degradation of external cladding and in one case basic instability have affected six estates built on the same system. Minimum cost of essential repairs: £20m



STRATFORD POINT. Clacking panels have slipped off this and a companion 14-storey block in the East End of London. More than 100 families have been moved out. May be demolished

Built for speed, without stability

Last month the Environment Secretary issued a public warning about the concrete frames of two proprietary mass-produced post-war houses. This week the Scottish Grand Committee is continuing its investigations into the causes of dampness in modern housing. Recently the National Consumer Council concluded that about one-third of all council homes suffer from one or more serious problems to do with their construction.

These developments follow the discovery of a series of well-publicized building failures. Throughout Britain, estate after estate is requiring examination, refurbishment, sale or even demolition. Glasgow's Easterhouse is out to homestead; Liverpool's Piggeries and Edinburgh's Martello Court have been sold; West Lothian's Murrayfield estate has had its head sliced off, and its torso converted into terraced houses; Newham's Ronax Point blew itself up; the Wirral's Oak and Eldon estates were the first to be blown up by others; but, in addition to further blocks in Newham, and scores of houses ranging from Hampshire to North Wales, it is probably goodbye to Fort Beswick (Manchester), farewell Hunstall Grange (Leeds), while in Nottingham the Balloon Woods is going up.

Library in Cambridge. The faulty facade of New Scotland Yard has been the subject of a recent lawsuit between landlord and tenant. Throughout the land there has been the sound of collapsing and falling flat roofs covering buildings from schools and factories to military establishments and shopping centres. Building failures are not new. Most of our great cathedrals fell down - some several times. Blenheim is said to have leaked. Fonthill Abbey collapsed. And, whatever the critics of modern building might say, the rehabilitation of older properties is now revealing the extent to which major parts of our great heritage were jerry-built with quite absurd and appalling detailing, leading to extensive wet and dry rot. No age has a monopoly of building failures.

from cars to buildings and provide cheaper, quicker results than traditional methods. The comparison between methods of house construction and the imagery of cars and car construction probably derives from Le Corbusier. But the war, with its urgent requirement for shelters, army camps and temporary accommodation of all types, provided the impetus, the political will and the money to develop the basic engineering techniques to make mass prefabrication a reality. It was also backed up by the apparatus of unquestioned authority. At the end of the war, Britain was left with devastated cities, a backlog of millions of slums, and a reservoir of technical talent demobilized from the army with skills in mass production. The authority needed to push forward was provided by the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act with its compulsory powers. All that really mattered, at this stage in planning, was pure provision of accommodation. Those daring to query what was provided would have been accused of ingratitude.

Government agencies failed to realise the extent of climatic difference between various parts of the country and based their costings on a pre-supposed equality: yet in Aberdeen, the heating requirement is almost four times that in London, and the exposure conditions between Edinburgh and Glasgow varies by almost 100 per cent. But there is no real evidence that the majority of building failures have been caused by adventitious experimenters trying out new materials upon an unwilling public. Instead, the faults can be attributed to the fact that we do not invest in research, so that architects have to rely to a large degree upon what the manufacturers claim: to the fact that, as a nation, we spend about 40 per cent less than any other European country on our buildings; and to the fact that speed of construction with low capital cost took priority over attention to detail, the use of approved methods, and care in craftsmanship.

People who support a cheap, short-life society should not be too concerned when their plastic gutters get eaten by squirrels and their glazed plastic roofs are pecked by seagulls for the materials of most buildings constructed since the war have included those which are both cheap, and have a short life. Tomorrow, the failure to anticipate social change

In Putney, a family waits for Greece to reopen the case of their daughter's death. Frances Gibb reports The long struggle to the truth about Ann Chapman



Edward and Dorothy Chapman at home with Ann's portrait: a quiet girl, perhaps naive

It was one o'clock in the morning of October 19, 1971 when police arrived at the Putney home of Edward Chapman and his wife, Dorothy, with the news that their daughter Ann, a journalist, had been murdered while on holiday in Greece. By daybreak, he recalls, his semi-detached home was swarming with newspapermen. "I knew then, right from the beginning, simply because she had said she was going after a 'big story', there was something suspicious about her death."

Edward and Dorothy Chapman at home with Ann's portrait: a quiet girl, perhaps naive. Edward and Dorothy Chapman at home with Ann's portrait: a quiet girl, perhaps naive. Edward and Dorothy Chapman at home with Ann's portrait: a quiet girl, perhaps naive.

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MOREOVER... Miles Kington The divisions of humanity

Humanity has a compulsive urge to divide into two teams and kick hell out of each other, even if only a series of friendly matches. East v West is very popular at the moment, as is men v women: U v Non-U has gone underground, though Left v Right is doing as well as ever. The trouble with all these divisions is that people take them far too seriously - only a game after all - and that they don't impinge on daily life enough. What's the good of going out for a healthy session of us v them or haves v have-nots if there's nowhere to play except Darlington?

Is a Money Situation: Those who cannot bear being in the red and those who cannot bear being in the black. The Sub-Marx Brothers Joke: Those who, after stating the obvious and having been greeted with the remark "You can say that again!", resist the temptation to say it again, and those who don't. Inside Out Or Outside In: Those who, when trying to fold a newspaper in a high wind, face into the wind and hold the newspaper by its two outer edges, and those who place their back to the wind and hold the paper top and bottom by the middle. Paperback Problem: Those who fold paperbacks right back as they read them and those who treat books properly. Separation Time: Those who, when told by a couple that they are getting divorced, commiserate with them, and those who congratulate them. Storage: Those who, when travelling by air, place their ticket in a special but unusual place where they can always get at it, and those who don't. Those who check their ticket five times between arrival at the airport and boarding, and those who never do. Social Awareness: Those who, when called "Sir" by someone in a menial position, warm to the innate respect being shown, and those who are aware of the innate contempt being concealed. Quiz Test: Those who automatically start slotting themselves into categories in a piece like this, and those who would rather die than get involved. Have you spotted the snag in all this? That you yourself don't fit either of the descriptions in any case? Well done! That's because in each case there is a third category I didn't mention. The missing categories are, in order: those who take other people's belongings off railway seats; those who insist on showing their snags to the Asian chemist; those who, between zebra crossings, those who, in a theatrical interval, rush to steal someone else's drink those who look first at the price of a painting; those who use the word "prestigious" to mean "dizzy at extreme height"; those who wait on a station platform at the place where the train buffet will stop; those who have no idea if they're overdrawn or not; those who can't remember what they've just said; those who crumple the paper into a ball and throw it away; those who tear off the pages as they finish them; those who think "I wonder which one I'll have to stay friends with?"; those who trust all air tickets etc to their companion; those who when called "Sir" reply: "Or madam, as the case may be"; and those who go straight to the end to fiddle the score.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 26) ACROSS 1 Dedication (11) 2 Just delivered (7) 3 Careful expression (5) 4 Stage layout (3) 5 Flying weapon (11,1,1) 6 Moved smoothly (4) 7 Darker areas (6) 8 Oval cells (4) 9 Detailed description (4) 10 Incliner (6) 11 Circular band (4) 12 Kamelid (4) 13 Clueless solution (3) 14 Loop (5) 15 Rice dish (7) 16 Covering cloud (5,6) DOWN 1 Indian Prince (5) 2 Cut short (4) 3 Charged atoms (4) 4 International match (4) 5 Colicoid (7) 6 Cleverly arranging (11) 7 Forerunner (13) 8 Escoused (6) 9 Documentalist (3) 10 Talk with enemy (6) 11 Junior mess (7) 12 Name (1,1,1) 13 Loosen (5) 14 Welsh symbol (4) 15 God of love (6) 16 Employer (4)

سكزا من لامل

PROFILE: Willie Carson

The man who came from the back

Photograph Ed Byrne drawings Richard Cole

With an impish smile and a quip, Willie Carson's boyish moon-face bubbles on to a million television screens and into a million motherly hearts, royal and common alike. If Bester Pigott is our most respected jockey, the genius Godfather of British racing - it is Carson, the Pretender, who is our best loved.

But he is 40 now, and the lines on his face presage middle age. He is possibly a millionaire, he recently married for the second time, and less than two years ago he was badly injured in a horrific fall. Yet he carries on, driving his Mercedes (it used to be a Ferrari) 40,000 miles a year to mount obscure horses at distant and empty racecourses for a share of tiny prize money. Why does he do it?

He hesitates a long time and his answer, when it comes, is uncertain. "I like winning. I like the adulation you get, the pets on the back. Of course I moan when I'm driving to some small meeting. I keep asking myself 'Why am I going?' But I go. It's the way I was brought up. You've got to go and ride every day. You've got to strive, strive, strive."

He is no longer as hungry as he was. "I think some of my zest for everyday riding has gone. But I'm still hungry for the big winners. It would be nice to ride just in the important races. But when I find myself in a race, however small, and I'm going well, there's no lack of zest. Once the adrenalin starts pumping, it's just the same, whatever the race."

The praise and applause that are so important to him took a long time to arrive. His father was a warehouse supervisor for Fyffe's Bananas, in Stirling ("he used to pump gas into a roomful of bananas to make them ripen quickly"), his mother was a restaurant waitress.

There were no horsey connexions. "Every Scottish boy wants to be a footballer. But it became apparent that I was different from the ordinary boy because of my size. People kept saying 'Aren't you wee, you ought to be a jockey.' I heard it so often that I was brainwashed, and eventually I said all right, I'll try to be a jockey."

The fairy tale didn't start for many years. Carson was not particularly good. He was neither a natural jockey nor an insatiable horseman. He was, moreover, a very slow learner. Whereas Pigott was a jockey born, Carson was an example of a jockey manufactured. Even modest success came late - his first winning ride came when he was nearly 20, and at 22 he still had fewer winners than his age.

"Often I thought of giving up. I never thought I could make a jockey at all. I was 23 before I started believing that I could make a living at riding horses. I often asked myself what else I could do with my life. But the young Carson, in his own words 'very ordinary', run of the mill, in some ways lazy, and not academically inclined, had no



He's off the first Flat race of the season, the Brocklesby Stakes, Doncaster, last Thursday. Left to right: Bright Hollow (Joe Mercer), Purim (Willie Carson), Crowfoot's Courage (M. Miller).

alternatives. "If someone had come up with a good idea for me, I would have jumped at it. Luckily they didn't. Maybe I would now be among the three million unemployed." Forced by his size, Carson strayed into perhaps the only activity in which he could excel.

His apprenticeship with Captain Gerald Armstrong, and then his brother, Sam, was hard, disciplined and old-fashioned. He is now grateful for that. When, in 1967, he was offered the chance of becoming jockey to Lord Derby's horses, he was ready. He has not been off the centre of the racing stage since. He now rides for trainer Major Dick Hern, which means that he rides the horses of the Queen.

"You feel a bit different when you put the royal colours on, a little bit more important. Your adrenalin gets going quicker. But it doesn't make the horses go any faster. After the ride, it's just the same as with any other owner, except just a little more polite. If you've won, you tell them how you won and they say 'well done', and if you've lost you tell them what went wrong."

"Staying in the fall. Blow, riding, storming finish on an apparently lost cause, is one of the thrilling and unmistakable sights of racing. He perches, perfectly balanced on his

mount, his little legs and arms working like untiring pistons to persuade the resisting animal to one more burst of effort. It seems inconceivable that someone so small (just five feet) and light (less than eight stone) can so comprehensively control a half-ton of horse galloping at 40 miles an hour.

"The manic riding action which has so often squeezed his horse first past the winning post has been variously described as pushing, shoving and pumping. Whatever it is requires exceptional strength and immense stamina. It also calls for sheer guts and a degree of ruthlessness, and Carson is often criticised for his over-robust tactics. His will to win sometimes overcomes his discretion.

He sees nothing complicated about his riding style, and becomes impatient when it is over-analysed. "I'm going with the horse, keeping in with his motion. Everyone thinks I'm just riding with him. And then I push full-bore to the line."

"I don't try to make myself look that way. I don't really want to look like that. It's not very elegant. I've been trying to change my style for years, in small ways. But it doesn't really worry me so long as I get the results."

and the odd broken collar-bone, cracked rib or bout of concussion. What happened to Carson at York, in August, 1981, was described by American jockey Steve Cauthen as "the worst fall I've ever seen". Carson was trampled, nearly to death, when his mount, Silken Knot, collapsed suddenly and sent him sprawling in the path of more than a half-dozen following horses. He suffered a fractured skull, fractured vertebrae and a broken wrist. Only his crash helmet, dented with the marks of horses' hooves, saved him from worse.

Even the tough Carson was forced to take off the rest of the season to recover. Astonishingly, it seems to have made no difference to his nerve or confidence. "I don't remember the accident, so how can it affect me? Looking at television films of it is not the same. When you're watching it, you're not going to go through the same pain. You're only watching a visual image. It might never happen again, so what the hell."

"I go through worse pain that nobody knows about, in smaller accidents. You continue to ride with a broken rib. Riding with the flu is like pain as well. But something I don't really remember, that doesn't worry me. I had a worse fall at Chester in 1979. For no apparent

reason my horse fell to the ground and I broke my collar bone. That was my only injury. But I was left with the thought that a horse, when he's galloping, can drop at any time. It took a bit of time before I regained my full confidence after that one."

Carson has been champion jockey four times, and has won two Derbys and five other English classic races. In 1977, Jubilee year, the Queen's jockey won the Epsom Oaks on Her Majesty's own filly, Dunfermline, in one of the most emotional moments that racecourse has seen in its long history. In one miraculous week in June, 1980, Carson rode the winners of the English Derby, the Oaks, and the French Derby, an unprecedented concentration of success.

When asked about his great races and his favourite horses Carson wistfully remembers, first, a race he didn't win. Dribdale was going well, with every chance of winning the 1974 Oaks, when her saddle slipped. In an astonishing display of horsemanship Carson rode on, eventually finishing the race bareback, and in third place (though he was subsequently disqualified). "If only I could have won that race without a saddle, that would have been something. It would definitely have been my greatest race. That filly was so unlucky. Everything always went wrong for her."

Dribdale was special to Carson, and so was another filly, Rose Bowl, "the most brilliant horse I've ever ridden. You pressed a button and it was like hitting a rocket. She had terrific speed, but it didn't last."

Troy, 1979 Derby winner, was probably the best colt Carson has ridden: "sheer ability, a terrific athlete, never did things flashy." The surface Carson is all grin and happy-go-lucky enthusiasm. But there is a hardness in the sky-blue Peter O'Toole eyes that tells of a quarter century of determination and single-mindedness. He has not emerged unscathed from his early struggles. His first, youthful, marriage lasted 13 years, and there are three children of it. It broke up in some acrimony. "I wasn't all that interested in my marriage. I was more interested in my career." He now accepts. "Nobody should be allowed to marry until they're 25", he says, not entirely jokingly.

He was not a good father, either. "If the children had come along ten years later, I'd have been a totally different father. I'd have been more of a father. The children came when I was young, when I was striving to prove myself. I was more interested in me than them."

He married again last year, to Elaine Williams, who was at his bedside after his horrific fall at York



William Hunter Fisher Carson

born 16 November, 1942, Stirling, Scotland
Ridden 2086 winners
Champion jockey: 1972, 1973, 1978, 1980
English classics:
Derby 1979: Troy
Derby 1980: Herbit
Oaks 1977: Dunfermline
Oaks 1980: Birame
2000 guineas 1980: Known Fact
St Leger 1977: Dunfermline

and in the months of recuperation that followed. Predictably, he spent the afternoon of his wedding day on horseback, riding a winner at Chester. She understood. As an expert rider, she also belongs to that world.

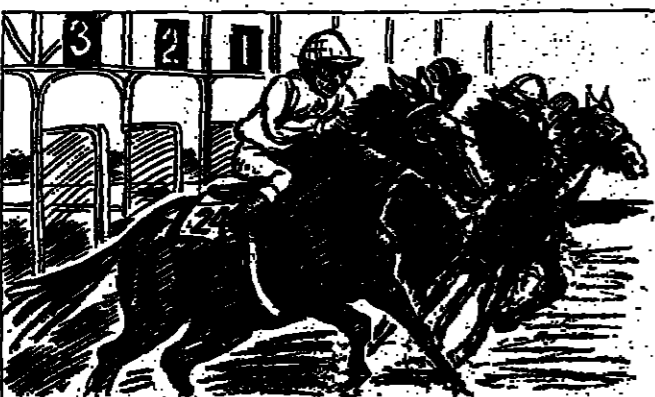
Carson has no interests outside horses. He rides to hounds with the Quorn for the enjoyment of it, not for any social pretensions. He has only one friend not connected with racing with whom he shares holidays in Barbados. Lying on a beach is his only non-horsey activity.

He cannot be an easy man to live with. His adoring public sees the ups; his family has to bear the downs. "I don't want to talk. I just want to sit in a chair and keep quiet and think. I turn the television on. My family thinks I'm an addict. I'm not. It's my meditation. If they asked me what I've been watching I wouldn't be able to tell them. I wouldn't know."

He believes he has another 10 years racing in him, and he still wants to win a Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. In spite of riding some excellent horses, the prize has eluded him. And then, possibly, Carson the breeder. He has a small stud at his home near Cirencester, with four mares of his own, whose offspring have won a few minor races. "The interesting part is seeing them born, watching them improve day by day, and then seeing them on a racecourse. It gives me a real thrill, to see one of the horses I've bred, knowing that I was responsible for it being there. It's like having a child." His face softens and suddenly he seems like a little boy again.

Marcel Berlins

How Willie won the 1979 Derby



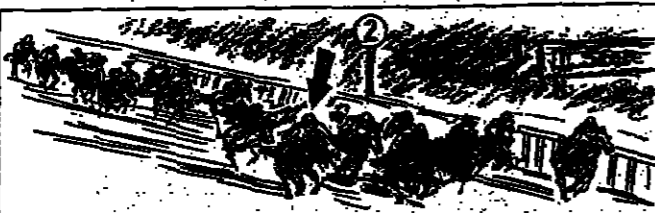
As the twenty-three horses explode from the stalls, Carson's plan is to have Troy among the leaders as soon as possible.



Five furlongs from the finish, Troy is not going well. He is bunched near the rails and far behind the leader. Carson is worried.



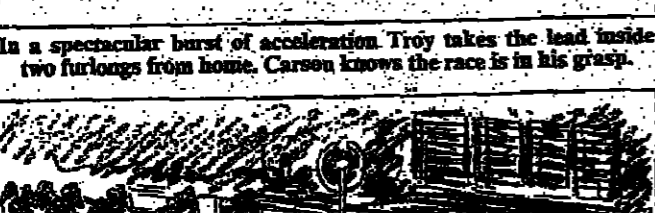
Carson has managed to escape from the bunch and to weave Troy towards the outside. He still has a lot to do, but he now has more room.



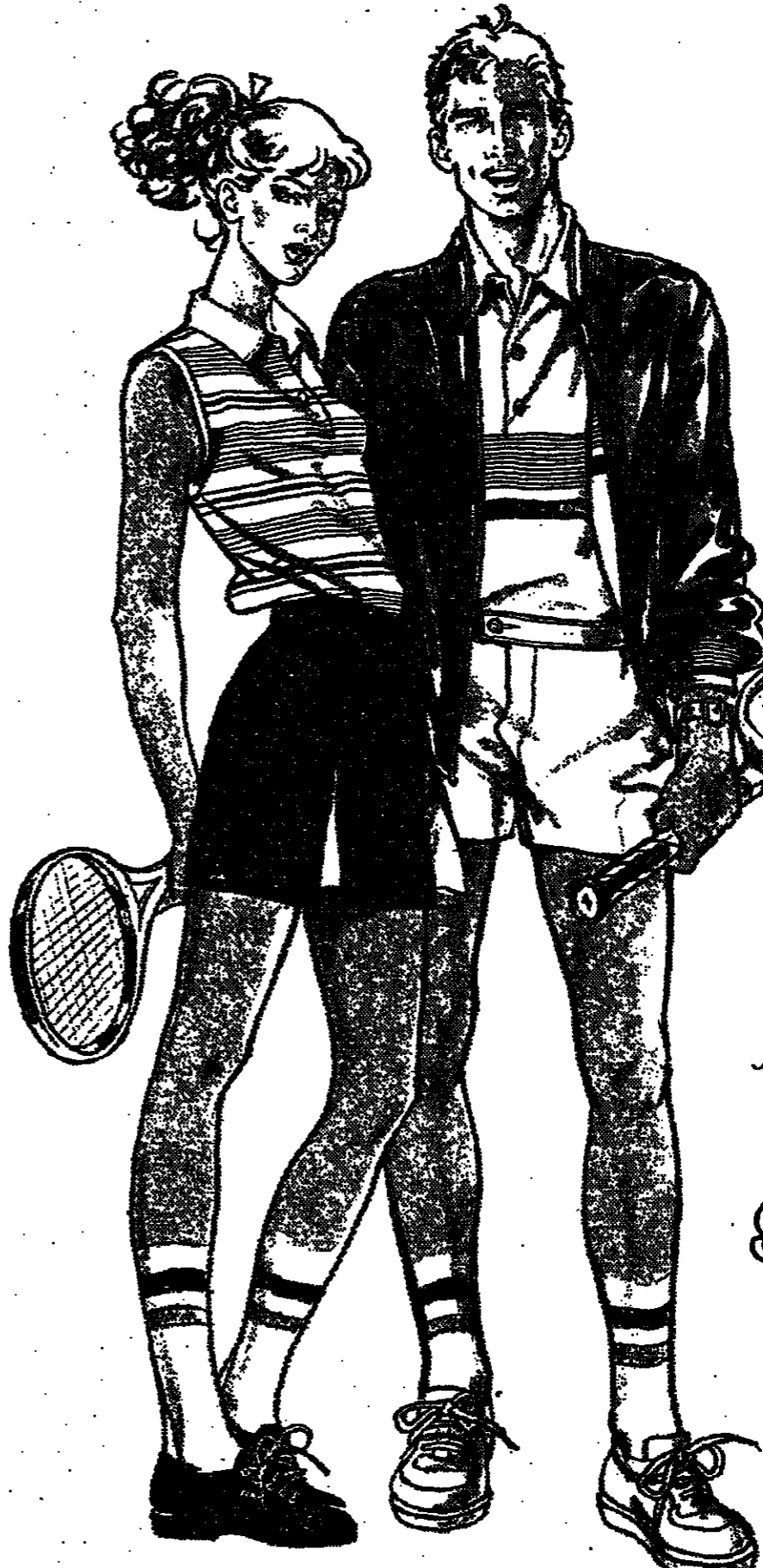
For the first time in the race, Troy starts showing the speed of which he is capable. Carson edges him towards the leaders.



In a spectacular burst of acceleration Troy takes the lead inside two furlongs from home. Carson knows the race is in his grasp.



Troy finishes seven lengths ahead of the second horse Dickens Hill. Carson returns to an ecstatic reception in the winners' enclosure.



RODEO

Left: Tennis top, £4.99

Pleated tennis skirt, £6.99

Both in sizes 10-16.

Right: Blouson with co-ordinating lining, £17.99

Matching tennis shirt, £6.99

both in chest sizes 91-117cm (36-46")

Co-ordinating tennis shorts.

Waist 71-97cm (28-38") £7.99

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THE TIMES DIARY

Muffing it

John Le Carré, whose Little Drummer Girl is published today...

Three's company

Conductors love Karlheinz Stockhausen because of the extra employment he brings...

Derailed?

British Rail feels hurt to be told to "pull its socks up" by Len Dumelow...

After confessions and correspondence in the PHS editor suggests the word is out of date...

Sinking feeling

There is good and bad news of the project to farm salmon in the Falklands...

Softer sell

The playwright Arthur Miller is making his first attempt to direct a play in a foreign language...

Howzat

My schoolmate Ralph Holliday's achievement in taking 10 wickets for no runs in a house cricket match...

I do not want to tie myself in knots explaining this, but in 1978 The Times gave 11 straight inches on the front page to a report that Dr Edward Hunter had invented a new knot...

All smiles and clenched teeth

Moscow

Soviet television viewers were surprised when Mr Qian Qichen, the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, arrived here for the second round of Sino-Soviet talks...

For most Russians the film brought back memories of the bitter fighting on the Amur River in 1969. The commentary said the border troops remained on the alert day and night on the Amur and were ready to defend Soviet territory...

So far, so good - except that beneath all the smiles, handshakes and the exchanges of toasts in the Prague restaurant, the suspicion and mistrust which sparked the Amur River clashes remain as deep as ever.

The two rounds of talks held so far - in Peking last October, and in Moscow over the past month - have so far yielded precious little. Chinese officials, who in a previous era were as stony faced and uncommunicative as their Soviet allies...

Among the 28 Greens taking their seats in West Germany's new parliament is a man who provokes stronger feelings of anger, bitterness, respect and admiration than almost any other public figure...

Few changes have been more surprising than the transformation of this dedicated, disciplined commander of a tank division into the elected representative of a radical, pacifist, ecological party.

He plays down the difference. "I have always had a job to do, though of course the circumstances are now altered. As a soldier I am used to adapting to new situations."

His conversion, which has cost him all his former friends, and involved him in scandal, denunciation and political intrigue, was brought to a head in 1979 with the growing belief that the new missiles depended for their credibility as a deterrent on the readiness of all German to commit collective suicide.

Last week's House of Lords decision in the Sikh turban case has come as an immense relief to the Commission for Racial Equality.

That ruling, the commission believes, will not only help Sikhs asked to change their style of dress. It should, for example, make it easier for an Asian with a poor grasp of written English to claim indirect discrimination where a firm insists on written applications for a job that does not require literacy.

Last week's ruling has at least reversed that trend. Apart from acknowledging that Sikhs are a racial group within the meaning of the Act, it has restored a broader definition of indirect discrimination which the Law Lords themselves said was evidently Parliament's intention...



was singled out for special attention by the new Soviet leader.

The Chinese response, characteristically, was to declare that it was up to Moscow to make new efforts to remove the obstacles and "prejudices".

Mr Andropov hopes to mend his fences with China partly to boost bilateral trade, partly to ease tension on the border at a time when Moscow has problems enough elsewhere (including Poland), and also to spite the United States.

The issue on which most progress has been made in the Moscow round of talks is the reduction of Soviet troops in Mongolia and on the Sino-Soviet border (presumably a reduced Soviet contingent would compensate by being even more vigilant than usual).

On the other hand, the Russians have reportedly not budged an inch on the other two issues which Peking regards as crucial: the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and Soviet support for the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea, which the Chinese see as imposed by Vietnam, Russia's ally.

Throughout the talks, the Chinese embassy dropped lengthy denunciations of Vietnamese policy towards Kampuchea through the mail boxes of foreign diplomats and journalists.

The Russians, meanwhile, refused to discuss either Afghanistan or Kampuchea on the grounds that they concern "third countries" and not bilateral relations.

Soviet demands that Peking should publicly renounce all claims to territory ceded by China to the Tsarist empire, including Vladivostok, Lake Baikal and whole tracts of Kazakhstan.

A third round of talks is due to take place in Peking, although Mr Qian Qichen has returned home without fixing a date for the resumption.

The two sides have signed an agreement providing an increase of 150 per cent in bilateral trade, which in 1982 amounted to some \$800m.

The Russians need Chinese textiles and food, and sell China raw materials, timber and steel in return.

Richard Owen

A General who laid down his arms for the Greens



Bastian: Transformation

Germany would become an atomic battlefield, and from the moment of their deployment, West Germans would have no further control over them.

These doubts might have been kept to useful exchanges with fellow officers had he not accepted an invitation to speak to a group of young socialists in March 1979, when he voiced doubts that the Russians were preparing a military offensive in Europe.

The conservative press blew up his remarks and the opposition Christian Democrats called for his resignation.

But as he was promoted, so his doubts grew about the way these interests were being defended. He saw his fellow officers reach with alarming ease for nuclear weapons, blinded to the reality of their destructiveness as Germans had been blinded in the war by Hitler's talk of a secret weapon.

He also became convinced of the falsity of two other Nato theses: first,

that the Warsaw Pact was superior in arms and capabilities, and secondly that the Soviet Union wanted to conquer the world and promote world revolution.

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Bastian kept up his opposition and got in touch with other anti-nuclear campaigners.

million people, formed the basis of the peace movement and had wide political repercussions.

Bastian's actions drew outrage from former colleagues, cries of betrayal and accusations that he was a communist.

He is not helped by the praise heaped on him by the Russians and other East Block countries. For them he has only criticism: their arms policies are dangerous, their system oppressive, their nuclear strategy as fatal as the West's.

In many ways Bastian is a classic dissident. Like Sakharov, his radicalization, gradual and almost against his will, began through professional disagreement on nuclear policy.

Like Sakharov, he also remains loyal to old ideals. "I know what is a military secret. I shall never reveal those." And in his decisive bearing, masked by old clothes and a quiet-spoken manner, he exudes the same isolated dignity.

He sees the parallels but points out the essential difference. "I live in a democracy. I am not persecuted by the state. I am free to express my views and to disagree."

Michael Binyon

Wanted: a keener cutting edge to race laws

Act's machinery was so elaborate "it is in danger of grinding to a halt". It has said "a spider's web" - one from which the commission now wishes to escape.

That is particularly true of the formal investigations into possible discrimination the commission can launch. At present these can be challenged at so many stages, from terms of reference to findings, that the commission can find itself locked in court battles for two years and more before real work on the inquiry begins.

But if last week's ruling restored to the Act some of the force the commission always believed it was meant to have, there is much else the commission wants changed.

hear that jobs are available. The second is to highlight good practice and publicize it.

A much more controversial idea is to shift the burden of proof. Instead of having to prove an employer discriminated, the commission wants an applicant to show only that he suffered less favourable treatment. It would then be for the accused to show the treatment was not meted out on racial grounds.

A further major change under consideration is a way of increasing the penalties for discrimination. At present it can take an individual two years to bring a case, and compensation often amounts only to £50 up to £100.

A vicious circle has set in in which few people have the stamina to see a case through for such small reward, and so few cases are brought that most lawyers are ignorant of the law and do little to encourage clients to use it.

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Last week's judgment was only the first step for the commission in a renewed attempt to produce an effective body of law against racial discrimination.

Nicholas Timmins

Gerald Kaufman

Have constituency, should travel

The prices charged for its publications by Her Majesty's Stationery Office have become something of a scandal.

Only dedicated Nousey Parkers, curious about the doings of the representatives, will be willing to shell out £6.40 for the newly-published 110-page paperback, Register of Interests of Members of the House of Commons.

Certainly, the circumstances of some of the journeys are intriguing. I would be fascinated to learn more about Mr Donald Thompson's two-day visit to San Marino as an official guest of that minute republic.

It may be said that, if an MP wishes to go abroad, he may find it possible to do so as a member of a select committee, and it is true that so far in this Parliament such committees have made 71 overseas visits to some 30 countries in five continents.

An MP, however, is not elected simply to look after his constituents' individual problems, exceptionally important though that work undoubtedly is.

Although select committees can perform a valuable role in scrutinizing the activities of the Government,

British MPs are not elected simply to sit on committees, either. It is not for nothing that our representatives are described as private members.

If an MP believes that there is some aspect of British Government policy or administration which merits examination, and if he does not possess private means, he may be unable to fulfil his duty as he sees it unless he can be included in a select committee visit, be appointed a delegation of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association or the Inter-Parliamentary Union, be awarded a courtesy trip organized by a government department, or obtain an invitation from some foundation or commercial organization or from a foreign government.

Yet a member who is concerned about immigration procedures in our high commissions in the Indian sub-continent ought to be able to go out and see for himself.

A member of the West German Bundestag, in addition to receiving a salary 50 per cent higher than that of a British MP - together with an adequately paid staff, suitable office accommodation and free travel within his country - is reimbursed for the cost of air transport on official visits abroad.

If Mr Donald Thompson did not have to enter a trip to San Marino in the Register of Members' Interests, that might deprive the gossip columnists of a paragraph. It would, however, make our Parliament a more dignified institution.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Ardwick.

Max Beloff

Right wheel at the end of the column

If St Simeon Stylites had ever descended from his column, he would have found it a great comedown.

St Simeon, a man of great austerity, no doubt inveighed against the corruptions of his time.

One clue is that, after a period in the political wilderness when I had left the Liberal Party as a protest against its abandonment of traditional liberal values for the flirtation with collectivism that has now made possible an alliance with social democrats, I do in fact find myself at home in the Conservative Party.

It was obviously not a matter of specific policies. When I formally joined the Conservative Party it was in Opposition, still recovering from its defeats in 1974 and the shape and stance of a future Conservative government were by no means clear.

My philosophy contains a third element, more natural to those of my generation than to the young. We have seen parts of civilized Europe in the grip of monstrous fantasies with diabolical consequences - we have seen reason despised and trodden underfoot.

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Lord Beloff is Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Board to the Conservative Research Department.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 26: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips...

Mr R. J. G. Wickes and Miss D. T. Pedley
The engagement is announced...

Mr R. J. G. Holman and Miss A. J. Perkins
The engagement is announced...

Mr M. W. Morris and Mrs S. A. Chetwynd-Talbot
The engagement is announced...

Mr M. C. Peckhail and Miss A. L. Dagnall
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Mr C. L. M. Stuart and Miss R. H. Thompson
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Politics and a false god

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Marxists should repudiate the "dogmatic atheism" which has become a principle barrier to the progress of socialism...

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, said in St James's, Piccadilly...

Dr Leonard, preaching in St Paul's Cathedral on Friday, said he accepted that the Gospel had to be applied to society as well as to individuals...

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR ANTHONY BLUNT

Art historian who spied for the Russians

Professor Anthony Blunt, who died at his London home on March 26 at the age of 75 was an art historian of the very greatest distinction...



His education in art was carried on chiefly in the holidays. He was the youngest son of the painter...

Britain for the academic training of young professional art historians...

At the Courtauld Institute he was almost the ideal Director. He had a natural authority...

A significant part of his contribution lies in his writings. In the fifties and sixties his principal books were...

Thus it seemed, he was set fair to pass off the stage loaded with honour...

As a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge in the 1930s, Blunt, it emerged, had been a close friend of Guy Burgess...

In 1942 Blunt had apparently ceased active work for the Russians but in 1951 he was able to use his contacts...

During the thirties Blunt shared his generation's attachment to the left, though the extent to which he had actually embraced the doctrine of Soviet Russian Marxism...

In 1936 Blunt resigned his Cambridge Fellowship and in the following year joined the staff of the Warburg Institute...

During his Second World War service with MI5, the flow of his scholarly publications, begun in 1937, was hardly checked...

In 1945 Blunt succeeded the then Sir Kenneth Clark as Surveyor of the King's Pictures and immediately carried out the series of catalogues begun by Clark...

At any rate he was, on his public exposure, dealt with comparatively leniently, with the annulling of his knighthood of the Royal Victorian Order...

Blunt, like a handful of other young English scholars sought out the Continental springs of art history...

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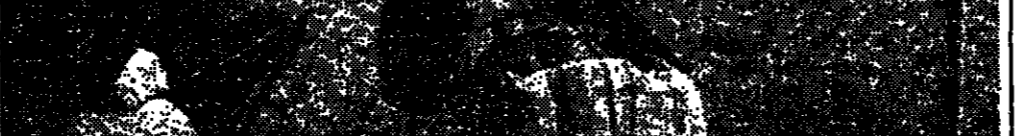
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Tory double: Mr Nicholas Winterton, the Conservative MP for Macclesfield, with his wife, Ann, who has just been selected as prospective Tory candidate for the neighbouring constituency of Congleton, Cheshire. (Photograph: Michael Aron.)

Parliament this week

Commons. Today (2.30) Progress on the remaining stages of the Transport Bill...

Progress of legislation

Commons. May 21 Finance Bill (contd) at 10.15 am. Finance Bill (contd) at 10.15 am...

Luncheon

Lady Mayores. The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayores entertained trustees and members of the Gresford Colliery Disaster Relief Fund...

Service dinners

The Royal Hampshire Regiment. The annual dinner of the Royal Hampshire Regiment Territorial Officers' Dinner Club...

Birthdays today

The Right Rev Dr C. K. N. Bardsley, 76; Mr Dirk Borog, 62; Marjorie Cousins of Brockwood, 83; the Hon George Bruce, 53; Professor Sir John Butterfield, 63;

Duchy of Lancaster

On the recommendation of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Letters Patent has been issued under the Seal of the Duchy...

Memorial meeting

A meeting in memory of Arthur and Cathie Koster will take place at 6.30 pm on Thursday, April 7, at the Royal Academy, Burlington House...

Appointments in the Forces

ROYAL NAVY. Rear Admiral A. S. Toope, to be promoted Vice-Admiral, April 1. Surgeon Captain J. W. Richardson, to be promoted Surgeon Vice-Rear Admiral, April 1...



THE ARTS

Michael Deakin (right) has emerged from the power struggle at TV-am as the clear winner. He successfully took on the 'Famous Five' presenters in a bid for full editorial control of the programmes. Another crisis now, and he knows that his head will be the one to roll. Interview by Bryan Appleyard

The last man left to blame

"I sought no fights, I sought only peace," says Michael Deakin with the smug air of a man who has just hit upon a good pay-off line. As the world now knows he has sought in vain for, as programme controller of TV-am, he has presided over one of the most startlingly bitter outbreaks of civil war that television has yet seen. Before Anna Ford guaranteed herself a place in every newswatch compilation of the year 1983 by muttering darkly about the acts of treachery which only history would expose, Deakin had been the least well known of the group which founded commercial breakfast television. Afterwards he was the star, a cool eminence grise who had taken on "presenter power" and won.

Now, in the uneasy calm at Camden Town, he has taken to speaking in a kind of code. He talks at length of the competitive and psychological pressures of American breakfast television, and of the sense in which TV-am is the first really commercial station in Britain, in that it genuinely has to compete for advertising against the monopoly commercial companies. Ratings are therefore its life or its death. This is all intended to be heard by his staff, who came from the cosy monopolies of the regional franchise holders or the BBC. He is trying to teach them that TV-am is in a tougher ballgame, especially for presenters.

Deakin's part in the "hurricane of events" at the Camden Town studios and at Barclays Merchant Bank is now clear. By about week four he and some of his colleagues had seen that the BBC had run away with the ratings. Audience research indicated there was nothing wrong with the content but the presenter combinations were going down badly. Deakin attempted a reshuffle, starting with Ford, but this was seen by the five stars as the thin end of a wedge. They united behind the previously arranged roster.



Deakin maintains, it was all hanging together. "There has never been a row at TV-am until lately. It was a very contented place." But the first really public crack in the edifice appeared when the BBC launched Breakfast Time two weeks ahead of them and succeeded in being alarmingly successful. Deakin admits the BBC's product wrong-footed him.

Deakin sticks to the view, however, that they need not be that radical: "The belief that Peter's departure will change the sort of programmes we make simply isn't true. We must remember that I am also part of the team that went to the IBA and which they entrusted with the franchise. My professional reputation and the programmes I have made were part of what made them award it to this particular group."

In other words the fundamentals are right but the detail is wrong. The general entertainment-based approach stays and so, runs the official line, do the presenters. Deakin retains a brash belief that he can do it, whatever accusations have been flung in the small hours. His heart, after all, is in the right place.

Deakin's Fairs on the side. In the middle of the nineteenth century he turned into landed gentry but I've always had a streak of the fairground about me. "Look about this place as you come in the hall. It wasn't built by apparitions. I think it was meant to say that this is a fun place to work. This was a sort of circus tent - Barnum and Bailey. Let's say we are in entertainment and this is a fun place to work."

Opera Overwhelming power of basic truth

Katya Kabanova Grand, Leeds One thing is clear about Katya Kabanova. It gleams with truth from the documents and studies collected in John Tyrrell's hugely informative Cambridge Opera Guide on the work, and it stands out bald, simple and direct in Graham Vick's new production for Opera North.

over with overwhelming power. Stefanos Lazaridis's set is a boon. The original intention had been for his ENO designs to be used, but his work with Mr Vick led to a new conception that is, like so much else in this production, elementary and therefore elemental. There is only one feature on the stage: the Kabanov house, tall-windowed and grey, set high at one side on a revolve. But this is enough to give Mr Vick the means to rise to the most highly charged moments in the opera. Tikhon's departure at the end of the first act is followed by Katya, staring out through the windows, as the house turns.

plined and committed cast. Judith Pierce is an implacable, deeply grim mother-in-law, Barbara Walker a warm, stable Varvara, Bonaventura Bottono a spirited Yanya who enjoys himself, and Anthony Roden a husband whose moral weakness is as effective as his ability to rattle off quick dialogue; indeed, hardly a word of the Norman Tucker translation is lost throughout the opera.

The evening also benefits from David Lloyd-Jones's feel for the music's nerve, its quick interchange of obsessively mechanical progress and stilled emotion. Yet another advantage is the confidant of the first two acts, as Janacek came to prefer, so that the tragedy is filled all in one go before the interval and then spilled, with violent compassion.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre Victory Royal Court

Subtitled "Choices in Reaction", Howard Barker's latest play considers a woman caught on the wrong side of the Restoration. Julie Covington plays the widow of one Bradshaw, a political visionary having only a name in common with the surly lawyer who played Caiaphas to Charles I's Christ at the royal trial.

BBC SO/Pritchard Festival Hall/Radio 3

The most interesting aspect on Friday of a programme not otherwise distinguished in either idea or execution was the opportunity it provided to ponder what exactly makes a concerto a concerto.

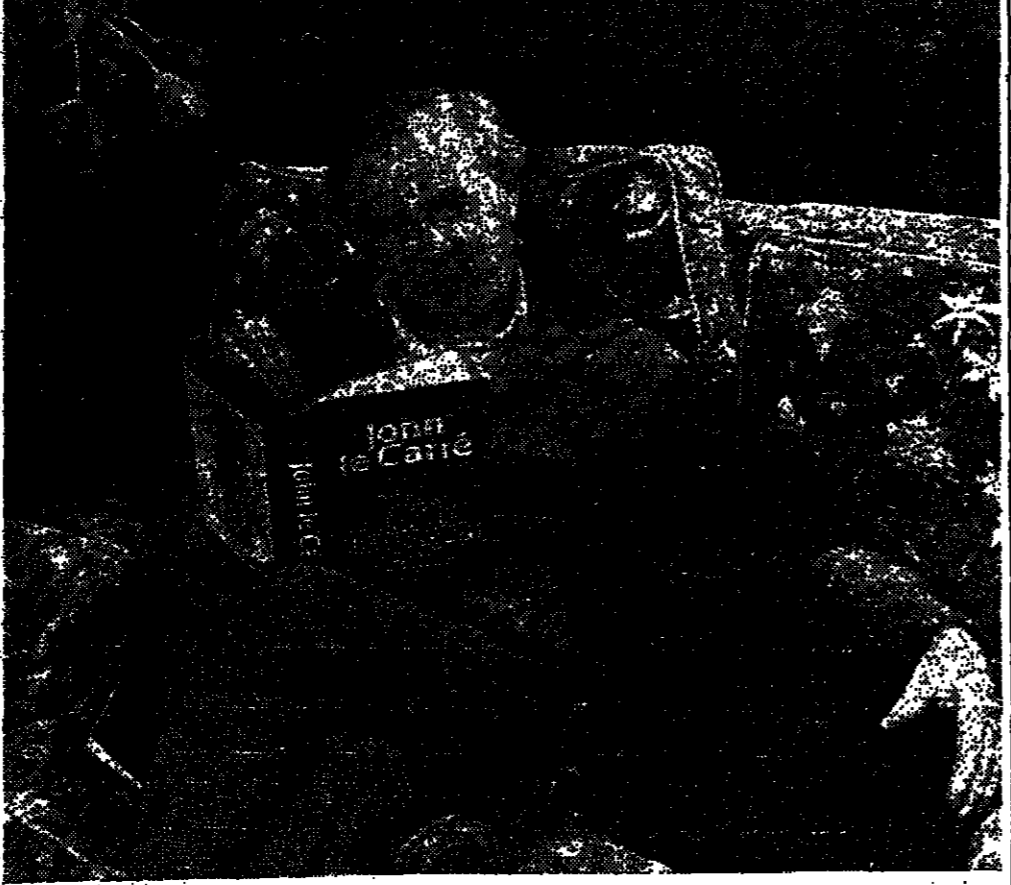
Concerts

For two pianos hitherto unheard here, instead of four hands at one piano. Mr Eschenbach told us that the two-piano version was referred to in the composer's letters, but that the music had only recently been found "in an old library". He did not specify where that was. As might be expected, the pieces gained a greater sonority and richness of harmonic texture from the double keyboard, the writing sometimes suggesting the spikier chords of the cimbalom.

1977, was the vista beneath Davies's Orkney home, where the Atlantic and North Sea meet in an ever-changing swirl of reflected light. Davies insists that his use of a magic square as a structural device in this work is audible, and certainly the innate feeling of growth and metamorphosis can be traced to the presence of easily perceivable eight-note permutations of the plainsong themes he uses. The result is a rich, pulsating organism, whose alchemic transformations were realized impressively by these players under the direction of John Carrawe.

Television Two men who act a great many parts

Considering that Dirk Bogarde was once an "Odorous" and has spent the last 12 years playing Germans, it is remarkable how pleasant he seems (Omnibus, BBC1). Perhaps his candour helped; he described himself variously as a timid creature, a man of no brain and even, on occasions, a mannered actor. But they were perfect manners. An ability not only to spill the beans but to eat them, too, is the mark of a man who does not care much about himself or of one whose vanity has made him entirely self-sufficient. Both, I imagine.



John Le Carré: a large element of the actor

mother's abandonment of her family, these were secrets he nurtured, forced to conceal them from a world which he tried simultaneously to placate and to understand. And so it is that in his novels reality is sinister, violent and labyrinthine; he studies it with the astonished fascination of a martyr looking at the arrows which have pierced him.

nizing guilt and secrecy, fear and betrayal. But he is also astute enough to ensure that his own fantasies complement those of his public: "People", he said, "want to interpret their lives in terms of conspiracy." The difference between fantasy and reality became evident, however, when extracts from his latest novel, about an Israeli double agent, were read alongside news "clips" from the Middle East. In contrast to his

readily accessible prose, there was too much suffering, too much chaos, too many people to be easily incorporated as "characters". Perhaps such a situation can only be understood in terms of melodrama; perhaps not. The spectacle of Mr Le Carré discussing his thrillers in a grave manner did not reassure me.

Peter Ackroyd

Two men who act a great many parts

After that, where can the play go? Bitterly recalling his colleague's failure, somebody called Milton is made to envisage the endless necessity for counter-revolution because power corrupts. What society would buy that, even from Howard Barker? And, anyhow, why this sudden loss of hope on the left, this identification with defeat? Does anyone else share it?

Two men who act a great many parts

Danny Boyle, a name I had not known before, has directed a beautifully paced, taut production, equally in command throughout the vast social and emotional range Barker demands. And nowhere more than in Miss Covington's performance, drained with disillusionment and then ironically triumphant as she fawns herself into a royal mistress's service. Beginning at the bottom, in wise silence, watching her guileless student son (Martin Stone) take a false name and a Scots accent, she learns to rob sympathizers and couple with a coarse cavalier (the sanguine Kenny Ireland).

Two men who act a great many parts

The author allows her a baby and a reissue of her husband's magnum opus as hopes. But I found little comfort, despite the exhilaration of the language, a sulphurous firework display that only tickled the audience though it should have scorched them. And, in the teeth of the Joint Stock budget, Deirdre Clancy has created three Restoration comedies' quota of costumes that understand every character, and an elegantly confined set.

Two men who act a great many parts

After the interval came Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra. It was a disappointingly routine performance, reliable, sometimes more, from a purely technical point of view, but lacking in imaginative wonder. It was as if an English mist had crept into the bones of the introduction and the mellifluous but voice-less Intermezzo, and the second movement, while apparently adopting the original faster version, was played almost wearily, on the distinctly conservative side of Scherzando.

Giuseppe Sinopoli takes up his post as Principal Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra with effect from January 1984; he will be appearing with the orchestra in May that year, and will be spending 12 weeks each season with them from 1985-86

Under his exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon, Sinopoli plans to make a number of major recordings with the Philharmonia.

The New Opera Company is to present a double bill of British premieres at the Bloomsbury Theatre from April 7 to 9. The works are A Full Moon in March by the American composer John Hartison, setting a dance-drama of that name by W. B. Yeats, and Inner Voices by the Australian composer Brian Howard to a libretto by Louis Nowra.

Robert Stephens is to replace Paul Scofield as Oberon in Bill Bryden's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream when it transfers to the Lyttelton Theatre next month.

Among the most romantic yet firmly controlled of duo pianists, Christoph Eschenbach and Justus Frantz had a surprise for their audience on Friday night. As an extra item in the all-Brahms programme they included four of the Hungarian Dances, but played in a version

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John Le Carré, on the South Bank Show (LWT), was a less endearing, and certainly more solemn, figure. But there is a large element of the actor within him, also; he seemed to stun an audience of schoolchildren with readings from his novels, and he went on to impersonate the voice of Yasser Arafat in a most convincing manner. But, then, he has always been used to playing parts.

As a child he suffered both his father's disgrace and a

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COVENT GARDEN PROMS. The Royal Opera TONIGHT & WED. 7pm Die Zauberflöte. The Royal Ballet TOMORROW at 8.00 La Bayadère/Prodigal Son/La Fin de Jour. 700 Stalls from places 1 hour before curtain up. £3. The Music Ensemble St John's. Another group devoting itself to new music appeared in London for the first time on Friday. The Music Ensemble is one fruit of last year's Dartington Summer School, at which event its members came together to play works by composers who attended. In fact it was a piece by that school's director, Peter Maxwell Davies, which crowned this auspicious debut. The source of inspiration for A Mirror of Whiteness Light, composed in

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 21. Dealings End, April 8. Contango Day, April 11. Settlement Day, April 18.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)



FAMILY MONEY LORNA BOURKE THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS EVERY SATURDAY

Table of stock prices for various categories including BRITISH FUNDS, COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, DOLLAR STOCKS, BANKS AND DISCOUNTS, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES, and COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL.

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THE WEEK AHEAD by Jeremy Warner

British Aerospace profits could jump £20m

A busy week of company news... British Aerospace, Bowater, Reckitt and Colman, and up and coming companies like Exco International, the money broker and view data group, and the phenomenally successful recent issue, Superdrug Stores.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Sterling remains vulnerable

The markets took little notice of Britain's poor February trade performance but the underlying current account deficit suggested by last week's figures may upset sterling once oil ceases to dominate the picture.

However, the profits of grocery and consumer products in both Britain and North America will have suffered from much higher marketing expenditure.

PROPERTY

Table of property prices for various locations and types of property.

RUBBER

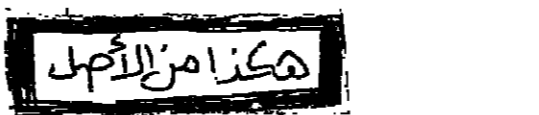
Table of rubber prices for various types of rubber.

TEA

Table of tea prices for various types of tea.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table of miscellaneous prices for various goods.



APPOINTMENTS

Chairman and deputy named at Triplex

Mr Lewis Robertson has become chairman of Triplex Foundries Group. Mr Tony Barrett becomes deputy chairman and financial director.

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Table with columns: Stock, Div, Yield, Price, Par, QTY. Includes sections for DEBTURE STOCKS, UNSECURED LOANS, and CONVERTIBLE BONDS.

COMMODITY OPTIONS

Table with columns: Commodity, Price, Change, etc. Includes sections for OPTION PREMIUMS and US TRADE OPTIONS.

Base Lending Rates

Table listing various banks and their base lending rates, such as Barclays at 10 1/2% and Nat Westminster at 10 1/2%.

The two-week strike that lasted two months How a bank rescue pulled Wellman back from the brink of disaster

Last August, Wellman entered into what it saw as a short, sharp fight with its US workers, pay cut and an 18-month pay freeze.

Now, eight months later, Wellman is fighting for its life as a direct result of the strike, which lasted two months instead of two weeks.

This is the story of what went wrong and the steps Kleinwort Benson took to put Wellman on a firm financial footing.

September: Two months later the battle has been won on Wellman's terms. But its customers have largely disappeared and it will take until December before some very hard selling gets some of them back.

Critics often charge that the City does not care about the nuts and bolts of British industry. Certainly banks have sometimes foreclosed too hastily.

Mr Alan Hopkins (inset, left) and Dr A. Frankel. Hopkins is a 35 institutional shareholder.

March: Robson Rhodes' examination of the figures shows a forecast loss of £3.3m. The scale of the loss has been apparent since February.

Jonathan Clare, the chairman, resigns, supported by the US company in 1979 and the decision to implement a wage cut and freeze.

March 23: Kleinwort Benson's plan is unveiled. With no time for conventional underwriting, which would have been difficult to find anyway.

Unusually, the institutions have pledged their money ahead of the extraordinary meeting to approve the rescue package on April 15.

Other shareholders will also get the chance to participate if they wish and the amount the institutions take will be scaled down in proportion.

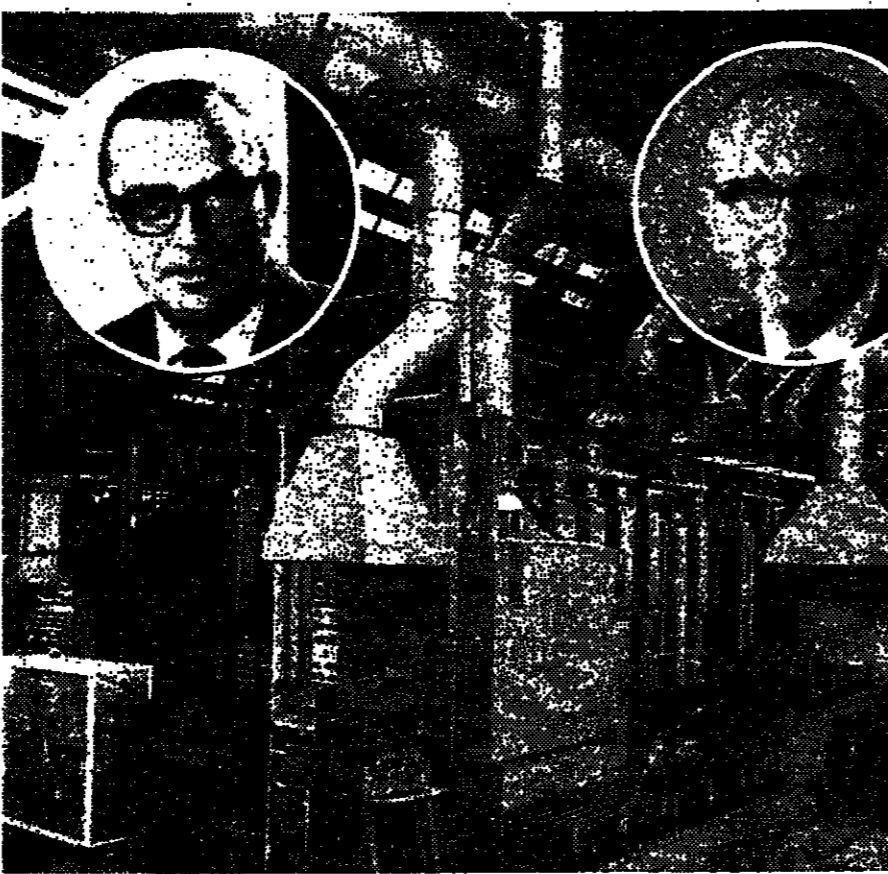
The result will be to reduce gearing from a staggering 137 per cent debt to shareholders' assets to a more manageable but still high 67 per cent.

Kleinwort Benson is plainly delighted with the solution it has come up with. Now Kleinwort has another four similar rescue packages on the boil.

It seems there are a few lingering doubts at P Wellman about whether or not another solution could have been found.

The loans from the US banks were in the form of industrial revenue bonds - cheap 7 1/2 per cent over 10 years with seven years to go.

This starts a three-week timetable leading up to last Wednesday's announcement. March 22: Mr Alan Hopkins, the chairman, resigns, supported by the US



Mr Alan Hopkins (inset, left) and Dr A. Frankel. Hopkins is a 35 institutional shareholder.

company in 1979 and the decision to implement a wage cut and freeze. He takes the rap.

Jonathan Clare, the chairman, resigns, supported by the US company in 1979 and the decision to implement a wage cut and freeze.

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American notebook

Fed pressed to change course

It was this policy that got the Fed into such appalling difficulties in 1979, when interest rate targeting had to be abandoned because the amount of money needed to hold down the funds rate was overwhelming the stability not only of the US financial system but that of the world financial system.

Since late November, the Federal Reserve has held the funds rate in a very tight and narrow range, centered on an average of 8.5 per cent. It has become apparent in the last two weeks that this policy is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

While the Federal Reserve has tried to dismiss these growth rates as irrelevant, arguing that after deregulation of the financial markets M1 does matter, the central bank has failed to convince many opinion leaders in the financial markets.

Finally, there has been a strong upsurge in commodity prices. The Journal of Commerce index of spot commodity prices has now risen 14 per cent since its short-term low in late November.

Unlisted Securities Market review

Bio-Isolates signs credibility deal

It has been a busy week for Mr Douglas Palmer, chairman, founder and brains behind Bio-Isolates, the USM's controversial high-flyer.

high of 440p. Since then the shares have been as low as 230p in the wake of the Polly Peck episode and attracted the scorn of the Stock Exchange Council.

USM quoted Knight Computer International has changed its name to J.S.D. Computer Group International.

Meanwhile, it continues to make high quality facing bricks, and plans to develop a site in Chesham for old people's sheltered housing.

Full-year figures are expected today from Good Relations, the only publicly quoted public relations firm and one of the

Owners Abroad

Owners Abroad, the travel company which last week reported a rise in half year pretax profits from £1.57m to £2.31m, has spent £700,000 in acquiring Falcon Leisure Group.

Finance Bill

The Finance Bill, to be published next Wednesday will state that investors in the shares dealt in by licensed dealers will qualify for tax relief under the Government's new Business Expansion Scheme.

Unlisted Securities

Large table with multiple columns: Capitalization, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div Yield, P/E. Lists various unlisted securities companies and their financial metrics.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

Table with columns: Maturity, Yield, Premium. Lists Eurobond prices for various maturities and currencies.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

Table listing various stocks and their prices, such as Av. Brit Ind Ord at 139 and Av. Brit Ind C.I.L.S. at 141.



FOOTBALL: THE SOUR TASTE OF SUCCESS IN THE LEAGUE (MILK) CUP

United have fair cause to cry over spilt milk

By David Miller
The skill at which football executives...

The men who tickled Atlas's armpits and shattered the globe

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent
Liverpool.....2
Manchester United.....1



Souness is the milk of human kindness to Whelan for delivering the cup

Lawrenson stood out for his flawless performance. Grobbelaar was to be prominent for less tasteful reasons...

Mariner the only England casualty

By Clive White
Apologies for absence from Wednesday's England meeting with Greece were encouraging few last night...

When Bob Paisley went up the steps at Wembley to a less than royal bow to collect his team's trophy...

Guilt-edged Bond and City slump

By Vince Wright
Manchester City.....0
Ipswich.....1

Day of reckoning approaches

By Nicholas Harling
Norwich City.....1
West Ham.....1

Goal that may have netted title

By Hugh Taylor
As the run-in to the championship developed into the most exciting since the inauguration of the Scottish premier league...

Bayern still in the pack

Bayern Munich suffered a setback in their Bundesliga Erfler chase when they learnt that their skipper, Paul Breitner, will be out of action for at least a month after being injured in the top of the table match at Hamburg on Saturday.

Luton making all the wrong moves

By Paul Harrison
Luton Town.....1
Sunderland.....1

Millwall cling on

Millwall's lowest league crowd of the season - 2,772 - yesterday saw them keep alive faint hopes of avoiding relegation from the third division. The team, including nine newcomers, produced a gritty performance which belied their bottom-of-the-table position.

A family occasion

Non-League football's claim to provide family entertainment could take a new dimension in this season's final of the FA Vase. Paul Newman writes. It is the first leg of the semi-final round on Saturday VS Rugby, whose side includes the son of their manager, beat Great Yarmouth Town 2-1, and Halesowen Town, who have two brothers and a pair of twins in their squad, beat Burnham by the same score.

A driving ambition

Monte Carlo (Agence) Bjorn Borg, appearing in his last tournament, held the top of the world in tennis yesterday. The draw for the \$300,000 clay court tournament was made yesterday by Borg's wife, Mariana.

£4m titles tournament

Johannesburg, Reuter - The double world title boxing tournament planned for the South African "home" land of Bophuthatswana on May 28 will cost around six million dollars Bob Arum, the American promoter, said yesterday.

Melbourne hopes

Long Beach (AFP) - Plans to stage a Formula One grand prix in Australia next year, should be finalized by the end of April. Would-be organizers of the Australian event came to Long Beach to discuss the matter with leaders of the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA) which controls the grand prix calendar.

Jahan is disqualified

Hiddy Jahan of Pakistan, the world number two, was disqualified during his third round match against fellow countryman Sohail Qaisar in the Patrick International squash festival at Chichester, Larry Halpin writes. Jahan was warned during the opening game for aiming abusive language at the match officials and a repeat performance at the end of the third game led to his dismissal.

TENNIS

BOXING

IN BRIEF

SQUASH RACKETS

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION United States University... SWIMMING: INDIANAPOLIS: 1,650 yds freestyle: A. Corbucci...

PERSONAL COLUMNS

BIRTHS
MORSE - On March 16th, at Queen...

DEATHS
WHEELER - On January 8, at Park...

DEATHS
JAMES - On March 23, at a private...

DEATHS
MURPHY - On March 23, at a private...

DEATHS
SMITH - On March 23, at a private...

DEATHS
WILSON - On March 23, at a private...

DEATHS
BROWN - On March 23, at a private...

DEATHS
GREEN - On March 23, at a private...

DEATHS
WHITE - On March 23, at a private...

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BLACK - On March 23, at a private...

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GRAY - On March 23, at a private...

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MILLER - On March 23, at a private...

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WATSON - On March 23, at a private...

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ANDERSON - On March 23, at a private...

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HARRIS - On March 23, at a private...

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CLARK - On March 23, at a private...

DEATHS
ROBERTS - On March 23, at a private...

DEATHS
MARTIN - On March 23, at a private...

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METHODIST HOMES FOR THE AGED

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS
STERLING TRAVEL

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deadline will be:-
Fri. April 1st NO PAPERS
Sat. April 2nd 2 p.m. Wed. March 30th
Mon. April 4th 2 p.m. Thur. March 31st
Tue. April 5th 2 p.m. Thur. March 31st
Wed. April 6th 2 p.m. Thur. March 31st
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20 Poles from cruise ship ask for asylum

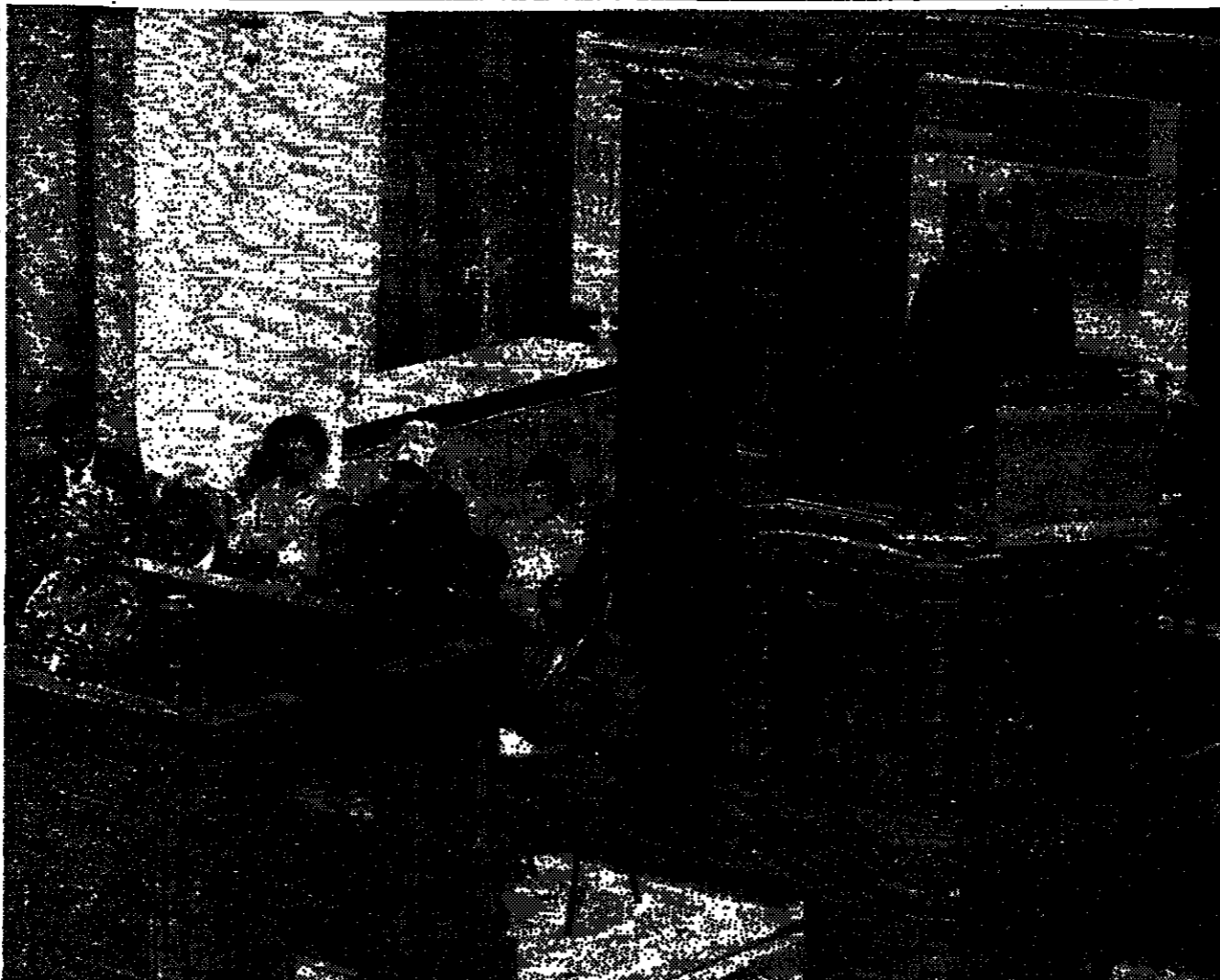
By David Hewson

The Government faces an early test of its policies on political asylum for refugees from Eastern Europe with the defection of at least 20 Poles from the cruise ship Stefan Batory which docked at Tilbury on March 15.

Home Secretary, in a Commons written reply, mean that the exceptional treatment of Polish citizens, who were allowed to stay in Britain when martial law was imposed, ended on March 10.

Alliance MPs to meet

The advice of others, were jointly convinced. Mr Jenkins spoke of Mr Steel in the warmest terms as "one of the best if not the best men I have ever worked with in politics".



Presidential address: Dr Kenneth Kaunda, president of Zambia, preaching at the Palm Sunday service in St James's Church, Piccadilly, London. He later flew to France for an official visit. (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Industrial order books indicate wide recovery

Continued from page 1 A fully revised set of CBI staff forecasts, prepared since the Budget, is also published today and predicts stronger economic growth this year of about 2.1/2 per cent with gross economic product for the whole year 2 per cent higher than in 1982.

Menendez defends his troops' performance

General Mario Benjamín Menéndez, military governor of the Falkland Islands during the Argentine occupation last year, has released a document defending the performance of his troops against internal and external criticism. It is the general's first detailed public statement since the end of the war.

TV technicians agree to Central blacking

Television technicians decided yesterday to "black" certain programmes if there is no agreement by July 31 in a dispute over severance pay with Central Television.

Letter from Aizu Wakamatsu High tech comes to cherry blossom basin

During the first week of April, the cherry blossom front, as plotted with military precision by Japan's meteorological agency, will invade Aizu Wakamatsu, a fertile basin surrounded by volcanic mountains in north-east Honshu's Fukushima prefecture, having already swept through the milder climes.

As they have for centuries, the sturdy citizens of Aizu will greet this confirmation of spring by consuming large quantities of locally brewed sake, a smooth and mildly sweet drink, while making merry under the blooming trees. Aizu is blessed with abundant rice crops, which made it a powerful fiefdom in feudal days, and exceptionally fine water, which assured its fame as a centre for producing sake.

Aizu's political and economic star, however, has waned since the last of the Tokugawa shoguns was toppled in 1868. The local warlord clan chose to resist the leaders of the Meiji Restoration - an unsuccessful act, but not soon forgotten by the central government. Aizu missed out on the first stages of modernisation.

Richard Hanson

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events: Park, Sheffield: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 1). Architecture by Ernest George. Trubridge, Calcester Castle Museum, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 3, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 10).

The Times/Halifax house price index

Table showing monthly index average of second-hand houses in London and other regions. Includes columns for index, average price, and percentage change over preceding periods.

Crossword puzzle titled 'The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,089'. Includes grid and clues for across and down words.

Nature notes

The first sand martins have arrived from Southern Africa. They feed with quick turns of the wing over gravel pits and rivers, they have a sharp, peevish call, like a peck of cards being flicked.

Roads

London and South-East: A5200 Gray's Inn Road only one lane each way at junction with Harrison Street. West Barnet Lane, New Malden, closed east of A3 local dividers.

Anniversaries

Birth: Saint Teresa of Avila; Avila, Spain, 1515; Cornelia Heymans, Nobel laureate in physiology, 1938, Ghent, 1892. Peggy Weaving, actress, died in London, 1962.

Parliament today

Communes (2.30). Telecommunications Bill, second reading. Energy Bill, second reading. Debate on adult education.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the Premium Bond weekly draw are: £100,000: 3QW 054373 (Cumbria); £50,000: 6DF 033015 (Warwickshire); £25,000: 182S 257741 (Wiltshire).

Weather forecast

A cold N airstream will become established over Britain as pressure builds from W. 6 am to midnight.

High tides

Table of high tide times for various locations in Britain. Includes columns for location, AM, HT, PM, and FT.

Around Britain

Table showing weather conditions around Britain. Columns include Sun, Rain, Mist, and Cloud.

London

Table of London weather forecasts for different districts.

Abroad

Table of weather forecasts for various international locations.

Promo for 'The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,088 will appear next Saturday'. Includes details about the puzzle and the prize.

